

# St. Luke's Table

## ASH WEDNESDAY

Imposition of Ashes  
and Holy Eucharist



Ash, Mike Moyers

*(Quiet, Reflective, Instrumental Music as We Gather)*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

*(Silence)*

## The Collect of the Day

**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.**

## First Reading: Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17



Study for Mural -- Aaron Douglas, Delaware Art Museum, Wilmington, DE

Psalm 103: 8-18 (alternating verses)

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,  
slow to anger and of great kindness.

**He will not always accuse us,  
nor will he keep his anger for ever.**

He has not dealt with us according to our sins,  
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

**For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.**

As far as the east is from the west,  
so far has he removed our sins from us.

**As a father cares for his children,  
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.**



For he himself knows whereof we are made;  
he remembers that we are but dust.

**Our days are like the grass;  
we flourish like a flower of the field;**

When the wind goes over it, it is gone,  
and its place shall know it no more.

**But the merciful goodness of the Lord  
endures for ever on those who fear him,  
and his righteousness on children's children.**

On those who keep his covenant  
and remember his commandments and do them.

**God of infinite mercy and forgiveness,  
by the cross and resurrection of Jesus your Son,  
wash away our sins and deliver us from our infirmities  
of body and spirit, that we may live with him  
his risen life, to the praise and glory of your name.  
Amen.**

Second Reading:  
2 Corinthians 5:  
20b ~ 6: 10



Kindness, Compassion, Peace -- People's Climate  
March, 2017

Gradual Hymn  
Tree of Life and  
Awesome Mystery



Fugitive Slaves in the Dismal Swamp  
New York Historical Society

Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery, (5 verses)

**Tree of life and awesome mystery,  
in your death we are reborn;  
though you die in all of history,  
still you rise with every morn,  
still you rise with every morn.**

**2. Seed that dies to rise in glory,  
may we see ourselves in you;  
if we learn to live your story  
we may die to rise anew,  
we may die to rise anew.**



**3. We remember truth once spoken,  
love passed on through act and word;  
every person lost and broken  
wears the body of our Lord,  
wears the body of our Lord.**



**4. Gentle Jesus, mighty Spirit,  
come inflame our hearts anew.  
we may all your joy inherit  
if we bear the cross with you,  
if we bear the cross with you.**

**5. Christ, you lead and we shall follow.  
stumbling though our steps may be;  
one with you in joy and sorrow,  
we the river, you the sea,  
we the river, you the sea.**

## The Good News:

Gospel of Christ  
According to  
Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21



Pharisee and the Publican, James Tissot  
Brooklyn Museum, New York, NY

# Sermon



Heart of the World  
Mikhail Reva, Odessa Children's Hospital  
Odessa, Ukraine

*(Please Stand)*

Dear friends in Christ,  
every year at the time of the Christian Passover  
we celebrate our redemption  
through the death and resurrection  
of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration  
and to renew our life in the paschal mystery.

We begin this holy season  
by remembering our need for repentance,  
and for the mercy and forgiveness  
proclaimed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.  
We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes,  
an ancient sign, speaking of the frailty  
and uncertainty of human life,  
and marking the penitence  
of the community as a whole.

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 sit in silence  
before our Creator and Redeemer.

*(Reflect in Silence).*

## Psalms 51: 1-18 (alternating verses)

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving kindness; in your great compassion blot out my offenses. Wash me through and through from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin.



**For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.  
Against you only have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight.**

And so you are justified when you speak  
and upright in your judgement.  
Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth,  
a sinner from my mother's womb.

**For behold, you look for truth deep within me,  
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.  
Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure;  
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.**

Make me hear of joy and gladness,  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.  
Hide your face from my sins  
and blot out all my iniquities.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**

Give me the joy of your saving help again  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.  
I shall teach your ways to the wicked,  
and sinners shall return to you.

**Deliver me from death, O God,  
and my tongue shall sing  
of your righteousness,  
O God of my salvation.  
Open my lips, O Lord,  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice,  
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.  
The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart,  
O God, you will not despise.

## Litany of Penitence

**Most holy and merciful Father,  
we confess to you, 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.**

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, 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 judgements, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbours 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;

**Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.**

Almighty God,  
from the dust of the earth you have created us.  
May these ashes be for us a sign  
of our mortality and penitence,  
and a reminder that only by your gracious gift  
are we given eternal life;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

***Those wishing to receive ashes,  
Remain in your pew and stand.***

“Remember you are dust,  
and to dust you shall return.”





Accomplish in us, O God,  
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.**

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

**The Peace** of the Lord  
be always with you.

**And also with you.**



Kiss of Peace, Cameron, Julia Margaret,  
1815-1879

# Offertory Hymn: Forty Days and Forty Nights



Prayer in the Steppe -- Jozef Brandt, National  
Museum, Warsaw, Poland

## Forty Days and Forty Nights, (5 verses)

**Forty days and forty nights  
you were fasting in the wild,  
forty days and forty nights  
tempted, and yet undefiled:**

**2. Burning heat throughout the day,  
bitter cold when light had fled,  
prowling beasts around your way,  
stones your pillow earth your bed.**

**3. Shall not we your trials share,  
learn your discipline of will,  
and with you by fast and prayer  
wrestle with the powers of hell?**

**4. So if Satan, pressing hard,  
soul and body would destroy,  
Christ who conquered, be our guard;  
give to us the victor's joy.**



**5. Saviour, may we hear your voice~  
keep us constant at your side;  
and with you we shall rejoice  
at the eternal Eastertide.**

## Prayer over the Gifts

**Merciful God,  
turn us from sin to faithfulness.  
Accept our offering,  
and prepare us to celebrate  
the death and resurrection of Christ our Saviour,  
who is alive and reigns with you now and for ever.  
Amen.**

# The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord!**

Let us give thanks to the Lord!

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

Holy God, Lover of creation,  
we give you thanks and praise  
for in the ocean of your steadfast love you bear us  
and place the song of your Spirit in our hearts.  
When we turn from your love and defile the earth,  
you do not abandon us.  
Your Spirit speaks through Huldah and Micah,  
through prophets, sages, and saints in every age,  
to confront our sin and reveal the vision  
of your new creation.

Joining in the song of the universe  
we proclaim your glory saying:

**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.**

Gracious God,  
in the fullness of time you sent Jesus the Christ  
to share our fragile humanity.  
Through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection  
you open the path from brokenness to health,  
from fear to trust, from pride and conceit  
to reverence for you.

Rejected by a world  
that could not bear the Gospel of life,  
Jesus knew death was near.  
His head anointed for burial  
by an unknown woman,  
Jesus gathered together those who loved him.

He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it  
and gave it to his friends,  
saying, "Take and eat:  
this is my body which is given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me."



After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine,  
gave you thanks,  
and said “Drink this all of you,  
this is my blood of the new covenant  
which is shed for you and for many.  
Whenever you drink it,  
do this for the remembrance of me.”

And now we gather at this table  
in response to his commandment,  
to share the bread and cup of Christ's undying love,  
and to proclaim our faith.

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Breathe your Holy Spirit,  
the wisdom of the universe,  
upon these gifts that we bring to you:  
this bread, this cup,  
ourselves, our souls and bodies,  
that we may be signs of your love for all the world  
and ministers of your transforming purpose.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory is yours, Creator of all,  
and we bless your holy name for ever. **Amen**

## The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, we are bold to 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,  
the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## 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 him, we shall live with him;  
if we hold firm, we shall reign with him.**

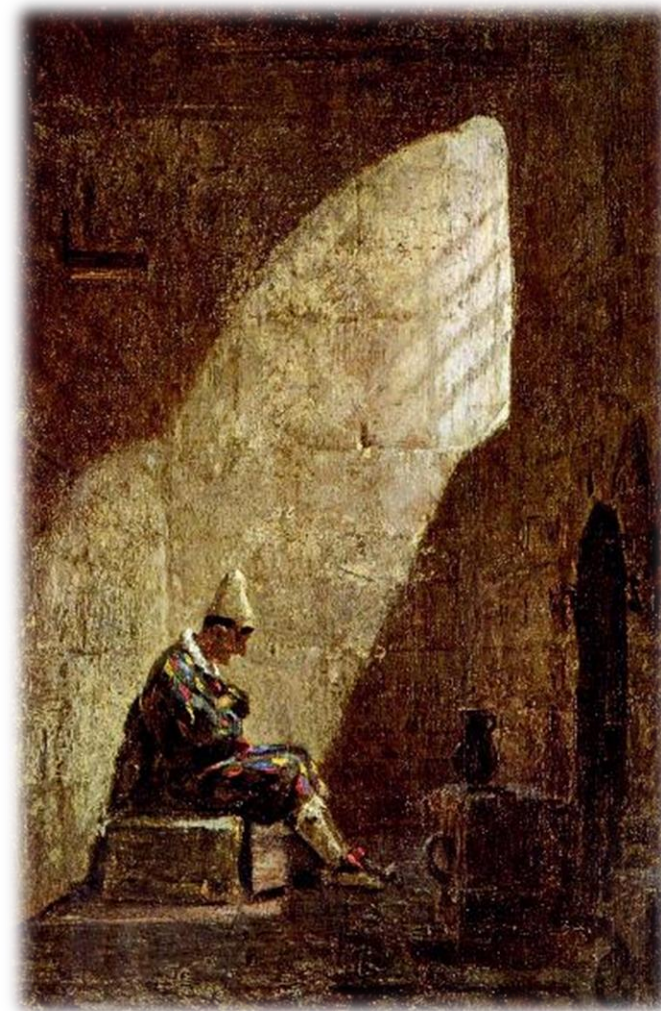
# The Communion

The gifts of God  
for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**



## Music During Communion



Ash Wednesday, Spitzweg, Karl, 1808-1885

## Prayer after Communion

**God of compassion,  
through your Son Jesus Christ  
you reconciled your people to yourself.  
Following his example of prayer and fasting,  
may we obey you with willing hearts  
and serve one another in holy love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Closing Hymn:  
Lord Jesus  
Think on Me



Lenten Labyrinth, Moyers, Mike

Lord Jesus, Think on Me, (6 verses)

**Lord Jesus think on me  
and purge away my sin:  
from earthborn passions set me free  
and make me pure within.**

**2. Lord Jesus, think on me,  
with many a care oppressed;  
let me thy loving servant be  
and taste thy promised rest.**

**3. Lord Jesus, think on me,  
nor let me go astray;  
through darkness and perplexity  
point thou the heavenly way.**

**4. Lord Jesus, think on me,  
that, when the flood is past,  
I may the eternal brightness see  
and share thy joy at last.**

**5. Lord Jesus, think on me,  
that I may sing above  
to Father, Holy Ghost, and thee  
the songs of praise and love.**



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