

St. Luke's Table

Ash Wednesday

Imposition of Ashes
And Evening Prayer



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.**

Opening Hymn
Tree of Life and
Awesome Mystery



Fugitive Slaves in the Dismal Swamp
New York Historical Society

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.

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.

We remember truth one 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.

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.

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

Proclamation of the Word



Isaiah 58:1-12

1 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.

2 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 judgements, they delight to draw near to God.

3 “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.

4 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.

5 Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bullrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will they call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord?

6 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?

7 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?

8 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.

9 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 yolk from among you, by pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

10 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.

11 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.

12 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.

Psalms 103 (alternating verses)

8 The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

9 He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever.

10 He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

12 As far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us.

13 As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.

14 For he knows how we were made; he remembers that we are dust.

15 As for mortals, their days are like grass; they flourish like a flower of the field;

16 For the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.

17 But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children.

18 To those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.

2 Corinthians 5:20b – 6:10

20 So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

1 As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain.

2 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!

3 We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry,

4 but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities,

5 beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights,
hunger;

6 by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of
spirit, genuine love,

7 truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left;

8 in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as imposters, and yet are true;

9 as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see- we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed;

10 as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Gradual Hymn

Forty Days and Forty Nights



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

1 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

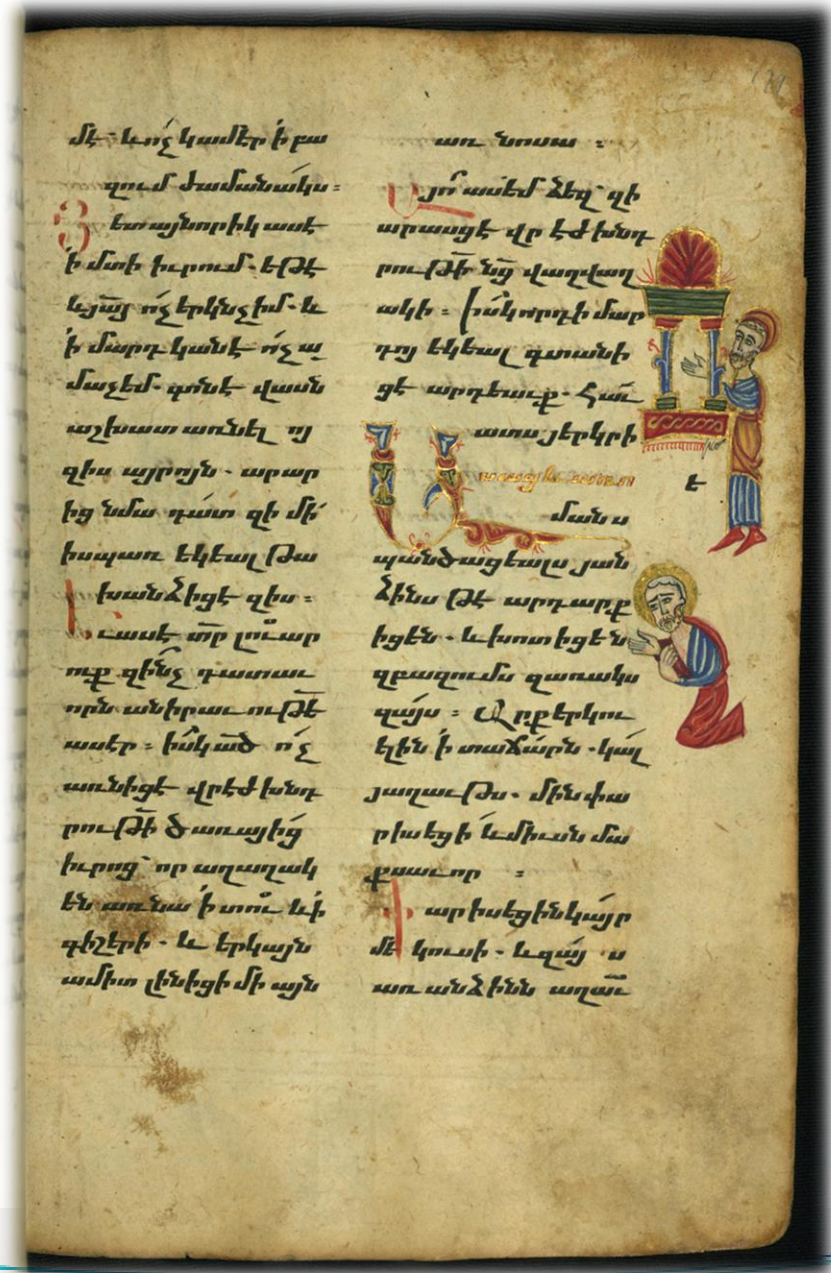
3 Shall not we your trials share,
learn your discipline of will;
and with you by fast and prayer
wrestle with the powers of hell?

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.

The Good News:

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



Reflection



Call from John the Baptist to Repent,
Jean-Paul Grandmont

(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.

(Silence is kept for reflection).

Psalm 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 us,
forgive us all your sins
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
strengthen us in all goodness,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit
keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn
Lord Jesus, Think on Me



Lenten Labyrinth, Moyers, Mike

Lord Jesus, think on me,
And purge away my sin;
From earthborn passions set me free
And make me pure within.

Lord Jesus, think on me,
With many a care oppressed;
Let me Thy loving servant be
And taste Thy promised rest.

Lord Jesus, think on me
Nor let me go astray;
Through darkness and perplexity
Point Thou the heavenly way.

Lord Jesus, think on me
That, when the flood is past,
I may Th'eternal brightness see
And share Thy joy at last.

Lord Jesus, think on me
That I may sing above
To Father, Spirit, and to Thee
The strains of praise and love.

Depart
In Silence



Silence, Levitan, Isaak Il'ich, 1860-1900