

# ASH WEDNESDAY

March 5, 2025

GOD OF DUST AND WILDERNESS,  
YOU MEET US IN BARREN PLACES,

WHERE HUNGER CONSUMES  
AND TEMPTATION CALLS.

IN OUR WANDERING,  
YOU OFFER THE  
BREAD OF LIFE;

IN OUR WEAKNESS,  
YOUR SPIRIT SUSTAINS US.

RENEW US, NOURISH US,  
AND LEAD US THROUGH  
THE WILDERNESS.

AMEN.



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# Ash Wednesday Liturgy

*Children are always welcome in the church.  
Please be sure your cell phone is inaudible.*

## The Word of God

*The ministers enter in silence; all stand.*

*On this day, the Celebrant begins the liturgy with the Salutation and the Collect of the Day*

### The Collect of the Day

The Book of Common Prayer, page 264

### A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Joel [2:1-2, 12-17]

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near—a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come. Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD, your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep. Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

**Psalm 103:8-14** *Benedic, anima mea*

- 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 Paul's 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.



### **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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Homily

Fr. Briggs

*After the Homily, all stand, and the Celebrant invites the people to the observance of a holy Lent.*

Invitation to the observance of a holy Lent

page 264

*All who wish to receive ashes may come to the altar*

The Imposition of Ashes

*People may kneel or sit*

Psalm 51

page 266

Litany of Penitence

page 267

*All stand*

The Peace

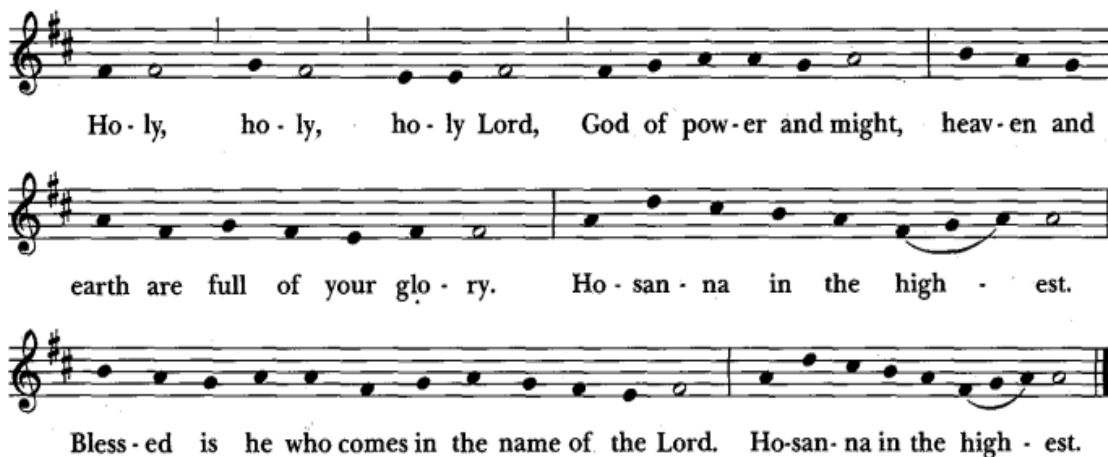
## The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving *Eucharistic Prayer A*

page 361

Hymn S 124

*Sanctus*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, heav - en and

earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

The Lord's Prayer

page 364

The Breaking of the Bread

The Communion

*This is God's table; all are welcome.*

Postcommunion Prayer    page 365

Solemn Prayer Over the People

Hymn 142                Lord, throughout these forty days

*St. Flavian*

Dismissal

*People*    Thanks be to God.

### ***Liturgical Ministers***

Ushers: Jan Lyle and Phil Groman

Lectors: Sarah Groman and Kate Jackson

Eucharistic Ministers: Sandy Lyle and Dean Jackson

Celebrant: The Rev. Paul Briggs

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## ***This Week at St. Thomas'***

### **Sunday, March 9**

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I  
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II  
11:15 a.m. Coffee Hour (*Parish Hall*)  
11:30 a.m. Choir Practice (*Music Room*)  
4:00 p.m. Centering Prayer (*Lady Chapel*)

### **Tuesday, March 11**

4:00 p.m. Outreach (*Conference Room*)  
5:00 p.m. Vestry (*Conference Room*)

### **Wednesday, March 12**

9:30 a.m. Healing Prayer & Eucharist (*Lady Chapel*)  
11:00 a.m. Bible Study (*Zoom*)

**A.A. meetings are held daily at 6:30 p.m.**

**Welcome** visitors and newcomers; we are glad you are here and would like to get to know you better!  
*To receive information by email, please fill out the blue card found in your pew; give to an usher or place in the offering plate.*

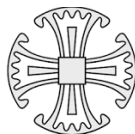
**Reminder:** We return to our regular Sunday schedule of 8 a.m. & 10 a.m.  
*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month will be Morning Prayer & Sermon.*

**Forward Day by Day**, a daily devotional, is available at the Welcome Table in the Sunroom.

## ***How to Reach Us:***

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