



**THE LITURGY FOR ASH WEDNESDAY**

**St. John's Episcopal Church, Ithaca, NY**

**Service of Antecommunion**

**February 17, 2021**

**7:00 PM**

**Prelude** *Lascia ch'io pianga* (Let me weep) - George F. Handel (1685-1759) played by Nancy Siemon, oboe

**Lenten Salutation**

**BCP 264**

**Collect of the Day**

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.*

**First Lesson**

**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?

ill 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.

The Word of the Lord.  
*Thanks be to God.*

### **Psalm 103**

*Benedic, anima mea*

- 1 Bless the Lord, O my soul, \*  
and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.
- 2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, \*  
and forget not all his benefits.
- 3 He forgives all your sins \*  
and heals all your infirmities;

- 4 He redeems your life from the grave \*  
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;
- 5 He satisfies you with good things, \*  
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- 6 The Lord executes righteousness \*  
and judgment for all who are oppressed.
- 7 He made his ways known to Moses \*  
and his works to the children of Israel.]
- 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.
- 15 Our days are like the grass; \*  
we flourish like a flower of the field;
- 16 When the wind goes over it, it is gone, \*  
and its place shall know it no more.
- 17 But the merciful goodness of the Lord endures for ever on those who fear him, \*  
and his righteousness on children's children;
- 18 On those who keep his covenant \*  
and remember his commandments and do them.
- 19 The Lord has set his throne in heaven, \*  
and his kingship has dominion over all.
- 20 Bless the Lord, you angels of his,  
you mighty ones who do his bidding, \*  
and hearken to the voice of his word.
- 21 Bless the Lord, all you his hosts, \*  
you ministers of his who do his will.
- 22 Bless the Lord, all you works of his,  
in all places of his dominion; \*  
bless the Lord, O my soul.

## Epistle

2 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,<sup>[1]</sup>~~SEP~~ 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.

The Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

## Holy Gospel

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

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

*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.

*Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

Hymn Forgive our sins (*Detroit*)

Hymnal # 674

Exhortation

BCP 264

**Litany of Penitence**

*The Celebrant and People together*

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.*

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.*

**Peace**

**Announcements**

**Lenten Solemn Prayers Over the People**

**Dismissal**

**Postlude**

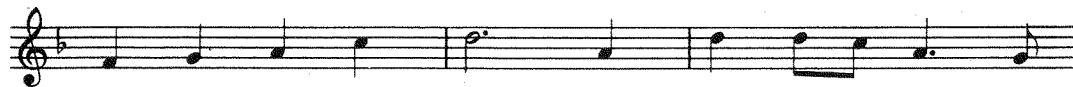
Meditation on *Detroit* (Forgive our sins) - arr. by Charles Callahan, 2006

The Christian Life

674



1 "For - give our sins as we for - give" you  
2 How can your par - don reach and bless the  
3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the  
4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls, and



taught us, Lord, to pray; but you a - lone can  
un - for - giv - ing heart that broods on wrongs and  
truth we dim - ly knew, how small the debts men  
bid re - sent - ment cease; then, rec - on - ciled to



grant us grace to live the words we say.  
will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?  
owe to us, how great our debt to you.  
God and man, our lives will spread your peace.

Words: Rosamond E. Herklots (b. 1905)  
Music: *Detroit*, from *Supplement to Kentucky Harmony*, 1820

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St. John's Church

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**The Rev. Megan Castellan, Rector**

Matthew Sanaker, Sr. Warden

Cora Yao, Jr. Warden

AnnMarie Hautaniemi, Parish Administrator

Chuck Merrill, Weekday Sexton

Karen A. Hindenlang, Director of Music/Organist

Crawford R. Thoburn, Assisting Conductor

Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday 10-3

If you need pastoral assistance, or just want to reach out to Mtr. Megan, please call her at 315-757-0251, or e-mail [mtrmegan@stjohnsithaca.org](mailto:mtrmegan@stjohnsithaca.org).