

The Season of Lent 2023

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



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.

Joel 2:12-13 (Lesson on Ash Wed.)

Voluntary *(Please refer to the insert for title and composer.)*

Opening Hymn *(Please refer to the insert.)*

Welcome

The Opening Acclamation

Blessed be the God of our salvation.

who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.

Presider may use the following:

BCP 355

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Confession

Common Worship, adapted

As we prepare to celebrate the presence of Christ in word and sacrament, let us call to mind and confess our sins.

Silence is kept.

BCP Rite II,

Presider: Most merciful God,

Expansive Language

All:

we confess that we have sinned against you

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;

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ,

have mercy on us and forgive us;

that we may delight in your will,

and walk in your ways,

to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Absolution

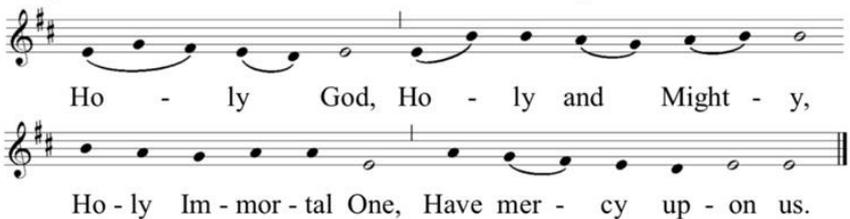
Presider: Almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive you all your sins
through the grace of Jesus Christ,
strengthen you in all goodness,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit
keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Trisagion, *spoken three times*

Presider: Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,

People: **Have mercy upon us.**

Trisagion, *sung three times: S-99*



Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,
Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

The Collect of the Day (*Please refer to the insert.*)

Presider: God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.

Please refer to the insert for today's scripture readings.

The First Lesson

Psalm

The Gospel

The Sermon

Anthem sung, or a period of silence kept.

Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

Presider: Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

All: **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Our God is full of compassion and mercy, let us pray:

For the world and its leaders, for our President and our nation,
and for the wellbeing of Creation,

that there may be justice and peace on the earth.

God of integrity, **hear our prayer.**

For Douglas and Michael our Bishops, and Nina our Rector.

For our fellow members in the diocese of Western Massachusetts,

for our ecumenical partners in mission;

and all who minister to the world in the name of Christ.

God of courage, **hear our prayer.**

For all who suffer from any kind of need or trouble,
that they may find comfort and healing.

(Please refer to the insert for those on our prayer list, and add your intercessions.)

God of compassion, **hear our prayer.**

For those who have died,
that they be gathered into your love and life eternal.

(Please refer to the insert, and add your intercessions.)

God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all that is good and gracious in our lives,
we offer our thanksgivings:

(Please offer your thanksgivings.)

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Concluding Collect

Presider: O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people;
in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all
who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to
you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Peace

Common Worship

Jesus said to the disciples: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.'

John 14:27

Presider: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

The Great Thanksgiving

BCP Rite II,

Expansive Language

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give
thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. Through

Jesus Christ our Lord, who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus, spoken

**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.**

Sanctus sung S-124

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.
Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and maker of all. Jesus stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ’s death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in Christ. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Savior. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

The Fraction *spoken*

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.

The Fraction *sung S-161*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

The Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Music at Communion (*Please refer to the insert.*)

*BCP 79 Rite II,
Expansive Language*

Post Communion Prayer, Form I

Let us pray.

**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 Christ,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.**

**And now, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Savior.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer, Form II

Let us pray.

**Holy God, source of all love,
on the night Jesus broke bread with his disciples,
he gave them a new commandment,
to love one another as he loved them.
Write this commandment in our hearts;
give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all,
who gave his life and died for us,
yet is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Blessing *(Presider may use this or another blessing.)*

The peace of God, which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God,
and of God's Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
and the blessing of God Almighty:
Creator, Redeemer, and Holy Spirit,
be upon you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Announcements

Closing Hymn *(Please refer to the insert.)*

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve Jesus Christ our Savior.
Thanks be to God.

Voluntary *(Please refer to the insert for title and composer.)*

Our Lenten Liturgy – 2023

Where are the Alleluias?

The most obvious change during the Season of Lent in our liturgy is our lack of Alleluias. Because we are entering into a penitential time we leave out saying Alleluia where we normally would. That allows us to have a lot of Alleluia energy stored up and ready when we shout in joy on Easter morning.

A Closer Look at the Liturgy:

* This season we return to the liturgy of our tradition, with a few other resources woven in, making it completely our own. You may recognize the Eucharistic Prayer as one from *The Book of Common Prayer, 1979*, it is Eucharistic Prayer A. Though, as in Advent, we continue to use the Expansive Language Eucharistic text, approved by General Convention in 2018, so you may notice some shifts in the use of language within this familiar prayer.

* After the opening portion of our worship, we move directly into a moment of corporate confession, this is due to the penitential nature of the Season of Lent. By placing our confession early in the worship we take on an attitude of humility. Following Jesus into the desert and then walking with him toward Jerusalem requires humble self-knowledge and the willingness to change one's own life. We begin with our confession and absolution. Introduction to confession is from *Common Worship, Church of England*.

* We pray together aloud the Trisagion, an ancient Christian prayer dated to the council of Chalcedon 451 CE (or earlier) and used regularly in worship in Eastern Orthodox churches as part of the Divine Liturgy. The Trisagion, or Thrice Holy, was incorporated into our BCP in 1979.

* For our Acclamation of Faith we are using the Apostles' Creed this season as it is the foundation of our Baptismal Covenant which we will renew on Easter morning.

* Introduction to The Peace is from *Common Worship, Church of England*.

* Post Communion Prayers: Form I is the Expansive Language version of the BCP 79; Form II is from The *Anglican Church of Canada, Book of Alternative Services*, adapted, from Maundy Thursday's service.

* The Blessing is drawn from Philippians 4:7 and is adapted from *The Book of Common Prayer 1979*, Rite I Eucharistic liturgy's blessing.

After Jesus had supped with his disciples and had washed their feet, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done."

I give you a new commandment:
Love one another as I have loved you.



By this shall the world know that you are my disciples:
That you have love for one another.

Adapted from the anthem from Maundy Thursday, BCP 275

*Peace is my last gift to you, my own peace I now leave with you;
peace which the world cannot give, I give to you.*

SAINT STEPHEN'S PARISH
67 East Street
Pittsfield, Massachusetts

A Jubilee Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts
Our mission is to be the heart and hands of Christ:
Nourishing people, transforming lives.