



*The Holy Eucharist, Rite II,
with Blessing & Imposition of Ashes*

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 14, 2024

12:00 P.M. & 7:00 P.M.

CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL
Greenville, South Carolina

WELCOME

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, we welcome you to Christ Church Episcopal.

Known as the “Parish in the Heart of the City,” Christ Church is blessed by the beauty of its church buildings and setting, which have been preserved and expanded by the energy and vision of faithful stewards, both past and present. For more than two centuries, we have been gathering to worship God and demonstrate our faith in our daily lives. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we are inspired to be *a joyful community sharing life in Jesus Christ.*

We hope you will experience God’s blessings during this service
as we have been blessed by your presence.

If you are visiting us for worship this day,
you are invited to complete one of the blue visitor cards located in the pew rack
and place in the alms basin or hand it to a priest following the service.

ORDER OF SERVICE

THE ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Please stand at the sound of the tower bell and remain standing for the entrance procession.

THE ENTRANCE PROCESSION

THE COLLECT FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.
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.

People **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Lector A Reading from the Book of Joel.

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?’”

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

PSALM 103:8-14 *(recited in unison)*

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.

THE EPISTLE LESSON

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Lector A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Following the Epistle Lesson, the congregation stands for the Sequence Hymn.

THE SEQUENCE HYMN, No. 143

The glory of these forty days

ERHALT UNS, HERR

The glory of these forty days we celebrate with songs of praise;
for Christ, through whom all things were made, himself has fasted and has prayed.

Alone and fasting Moses saw the loving God who gave the law;
and to Elijah, fasting, came the steeds and chariots of flame.

So Daniel trained his mystic sight, delivered from the lions' might;
and John, the Bridegroom's friend, became the herald of Messiah's name.

Then grant us, Lord, like them to be full oft in fast and prayer with thee;
our spirits strengthen with thy grace, and give us joy to see thy face.

O Father, Son, and Spirit blest, to thee be every prayer addressed,
who art in threefold Name adored, from age to age, the only Lord.

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

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

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Please be seated for the Sermon.

THE SERMON

The Reverend Dr. Harrison McLeod

Please stand for the Exhortation.

THE EXHORTATION

Celebrant Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

Silence is then kept for a time, all kneeling.

THE BLESSING AND IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Celebrant Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Please come forward at the direction of the ushers for the imposition of ashes by the priest.

The ashes are imposed with the following words:

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

Following the imposition of ashes, all continue kneeling for the chanting of Psalm 51.

PSALM 51 *(Chanted by Cantor)*

THE LITANY OF PENITENCE

All 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.

Celebrant 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.

People Have mercy on us, Lord.

Celebrant 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.

People Have mercy on us, Lord.

Celebrant We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

People We confess to you, Lord.

Celebrant Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

People We confess to you, Lord.

Celebrant People	Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves, We confess to you, Lord.
Celebrant People	Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work, We confess to you, Lord.
Celebrant People	Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us, We confess to you, Lord.
Celebrant People	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.
Celebrant People	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.
Celebrant People	For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, Accept our repentance, Lord.
Celebrant People	Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us; Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.
Celebrant People	Accomplish in us the work of your salvation; That we may show forth your glory in the world.
Celebrant People	By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord, Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.
Celebrant	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.**

Please stand.

THE PEACE

Celebrant	The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People	And also with you.

Please be seated.

THE ANTHEM AT THE OFFERTORY

At 12:00 pm
Improvisation on Psalm 51
 Donald W. Duncan, organist

At 7:00 pm
Just as I am, Arthur Henry Brown
 The Christ Church Parish Choir

Please stand for the Presentation Hymn.

THE PRESENTATION HYMN

Sung to the tune WAREHAM

O saving Victim, opening wide
the gate of heaven to us below,
our foes press on from every side,
thine aid supply, thy strength bestow.

All praise and thanks to thee ascend
for evermore, blest One in Three;
O grant us life that shall not end
in our true native land with thee.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer A

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, 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 for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**All (singing) Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Please kneel.

Celebrant Holy and gracious Father: 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 Father of all.

He 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 Lord 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 he 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."

All Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Celebrant We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his 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 him. 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 your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

All **AMEN.**

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

All **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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD *(Sung by Cantor & Choir)*

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast.

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.
Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion in this Church. If you are receiving communion, you are invited to come forward at the direction of the ushers and receive the bread (a wafer) in the palm of your hands. (For those with special dietary needs, gluten-free wafers are available upon request to the priest at the altar rail.) The wine which follows may be received either by drinking from the chalice as it is extended to you, or by retaining the wafer and dipping it lightly into the chalice. You are also welcome to receive the bread only. If you do not wish to receive the sacrament, you may cross your arms over your chest and receive a blessing.

THE COMMUNION HYMNS

Hymn 674

"Forgive our sins as we forgive" you taught us Lord, to pray

DETROIT

Hymn 337

And now, O Father, mindful of the love

UNDE ET MEMORES

Please kneel for the Post Communion Prayer.

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Let us pray.

All **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 your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

THE SOLEMN PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

Celebrant Bow down before the Lord.
Grant, most merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace,
that they may be cleansed from all their sins,
and serve you with a quiet mind; through Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

THE HYMN IN PROCESSION, No. 693

Just as I am

WOODSWORTH

Just as I am, without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come. I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt;
fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come. I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind; sight, riches, healing of the mind,
yea, all I need, in thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come. I come.

Just as I am: thou wilt receive; wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve,
because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come. I come.

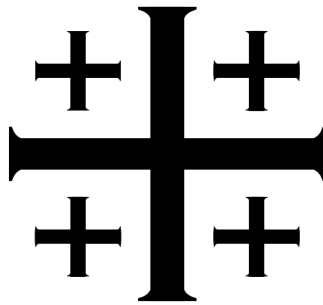
Just as I am, thy love unknown has broken every barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come. I come.

Just as I am, of thy great love the breadth, length, depth, and height to prove,
here for a season, then above: O Lamb of God, I come.

THE DISMISSAL

Priest Let us bless the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Please exit quietly.



CHRIST CHURCH CLERGY

The Reverend Dr. Harrison McLeod, Rector
The Reverend Kellie Wilson
The Reverend Scott Fleischer
The Reverend Lindy Bunch

The Reverend Wallace Adams-Riley
CCES Chaplain



CHRIST CHURCH
EPISCOPAL

10 N. CHURCH STREET • GREENVILLE, SC
864.271.8773 • WWW.CCGSC.ORG