

**ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND
ANGLICAN CHURCH**

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Ash Wednesday

Online Service

March 2, 2022

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?'"

Psalm 103:8-18

Refrain: **The Lord remembers that we are but dust.**

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. **R**

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 upon those who fear him. **R**

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. **R**

For he knows whereof we are made; he remembers that we are but dust. Our days are like the grass; we flourish like a flower of the field; when the wind goes over it, it is gone, and its place shall know it no more. **R**

But the merciful kindness of the Lord endures for ever on those who fear him, and his righteousness on children's children; on those who keep his covenant and remember his commandments and do them. **R**

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

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, labours, 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 honour and dishonour, 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 Gradual: *Alleluia*

#715 HB

The Holy Gospel Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Alleluia

Sermon: Rev. Susan Snelling

God of promise, inspire us on our Lenten journey with words of hope and encouragement. Tend our hearts and souls. Grant us courage to remain steadfast in our commitment to following in the way of our Shepherd and Friend your child Jesus. Amen

The emphasis in today's gospel is on the intention of God's people as they go about the business of practicing their faith. Jesus uses three specific examples to make his point. Almsgiving, prayer, and fasting.

Do we want to be recognized by others for the financial contributions that we make? Especially in this time of economic uncertainty do we want others to be impressed by our generosity? Or do we contribute to causes and institutions that we want to support because of the ongoing work that they do? Because we understand 'gift' as generosity poured out in response to the gifts we have been given? Because God calls us to care for the least among us? In so doing we are contributing to God's will on earth.

Likewise, when we pray do, we insist on making a big fuss about it? Do we go to church because we know others will see us there? Do we go when we feel like it? Or are we faithful in prayer each and every day? Do we find opportunities to give thanks throughout the day, to stay in touch, or do we only worry about our needs? Or the needs of those we love?

And finally fasting or for us in Lent it is more likely to be giving something up. How much of a fuss do we want made over us because we stop doing something, eating something, saying something?

Ideally, our decision regarding, almsgiving, prayer, fasting are things we keep between ourselves and God. Because they are markers for us on our individual faith journeys.

The reading from Isaiah takes up the same message. We wonder what God wants from us. How do I know what God wants? I think the answer to that is fairly clear. God wants us to be authentic, genuine. Now I understand that nobody else wants that. They want the polished, appealing, salary focused version of ourselves. The one who cares about keeping up with the Jones, avoiding hardship, not rocking the boat. That one is safe, does not ask questions or endure long nights of the soul. Although this may help us fit in with the neighbours - the unwelcome news for us is - this is not what God wants or requires of us.

God sees through the schemes of the people of Israel. They proclaim a day of fasting but continue to exploit their workers or end up fighting among themselves. They are not committed to the intention of the fast - which is to bring them closer to God, to recognize their dependence on God. They only do it for show. Nor do they use it as an opportunity to go without so that others may eat. Nothing changes when they fast. Not their hearts or their minds.

It is not by fasting that circumstances will be changed. Our thoughts our attitudes, our habits are what we need to take a fast from. Then says God, "Your light will break through like the dawn." Rather than pointing fingers or speaking ill of each other, by working together to resolve some of the issues facing the community genuine good - God's will can break in.

Both Isaiah and Matthew end with a promise from God. If we are able to understand and to change our perspective God will bless us richly. In the gospel of Matthew this is described as a treasure in heaven which

moth and rust cannot destroy, nor thieves take away from us. In Isaiah we hear about God providing for our needs even in parched places. We will be like a watered garden, tended or like a spring whose waters never fail.

The season of Lent is not so much for us to lament our sinfulness, as it is an opportunity for us to look at our true selves - warts and all and to recognize God's immense love for those selves. It is an invitation to deepen our relationship with ourselves and with God so that we can be of even more use in the transformation of our world "from our nightmare to God's dream." (Michael Curry)

People: Amen

(Time allowed for Silent Reflection.)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE # 14

Pg. 121

(With confidence and trust let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy.")

Celebrant: For the one holy catholic and apostolic Church throughout the world, we pray to you, Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant: For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the gospel to the ends of the earth; we pray to you, Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant: For those preparing for baptism and for their teachers and sponsors, we pray to you, Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant: For peace in the world, that a spirit of respect and reconciliation may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant: For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant: For all whom we have injured or offended, we pray to you, Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant: For grace to amend our lives and to further the reign of God, we pray to you, Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Psalm 51:1-18

Pg. 282

Refrain: Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving kindness; In your great compassion blot out my offences. Wash me through and through from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin. **R**

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. **R**

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. **R**

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. **R**

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. **R**

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. **R**

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. **R**

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. **R**

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. **R**

LITANY OF PENITENCE

Pg. 283

All: **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.**

Celebrant: 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.

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: Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

People: **We confess to you, Lord.**

Celebrant: Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

People: **We confess to you, Lord.**

Celebrant: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

People: **We confess to you, Lord.**

Celebrant: 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,

People: **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Celebrant: For all false judgements, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbours, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

People: **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Celebrant: For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

People: **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Celebrant: Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

People: **Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.**

Celebrant: Those who desire to receive ashes come forward

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

THE PEACE:

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

OFFERTORY HYMN:

Giver of the Perfect Gift

#180 HB

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS:

All: **Merciful God, turn us from sin to faithfulness. Accept our offering and prepare us to celebrate the death and resurrection of Christ our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you now and for ever. Amen**

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER #3

Pg. 198

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 our thanks and praise.

Celebrant: We give you thanks and praise, almighty God, through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Redeemer. He is your living Word, through who you have created all things.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh of the Virgin Mary and shared our human nature. He lived and died as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

In fulfilment of your will, he stretched out his hands in suffering, to bring release to those who place their hope in you; and so, he won for you a holy people.

He chose to bear our griefs and sorrows, and to give up his life on the cross, that he might shatter the chains of evil and death and banish the darkness of sin and despair. By his resurrection he brings us into the light of your presence.

Now with all creation we raise our voices to proclaim the glory of your name.

All: 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.

Celebrant: Holy and gracious God, accept our praise, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; who on the night he was handed over to suffering and death, took bread and gave you thanks, saying, "Take and eat": this is my body which is broken for you." In the same way he took the cup, saying, "This is my blood which is shed for you. When you do this, you do it in memory of me."

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we offer you this bread and this cup, giving thanks that you have made us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

We ask you to send your Holy Spirit upon the offering of your holy Church. Gather into one all who share in these sacred mysteries, filling them with the Holy Spirit and confirming their faith in the truth, that together we may praise you and give you glory through your Servant, Jesus Christ.

All glory and honour are yours, Father and Son, with the Holy Spirit in the holy Church, now and for ever.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pg. 211

Celebrant: And now, as our Saviour has taught us, we are bold to say,

All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen

Celebrant: We break this bread, All Communion in Christ's body once broken. Let your Church be the wheat which bears its fruit in dying.

All: If we have died with him, we shall live with him; if we hold firm, we shall reign with him.

THE COMMUNION

Communion Hymns: *Lead Us Heavenly Father*

#564 HB

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

All: **God of compassion, through your Son Jesus Christ you reconciled your people to yourself. Following his example of prayer and fasting, may we obey you with willing hearts and serve one another in holy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE DOXOLOGY:

All: **Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen**

THE BLESSING:

Celebrant: May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

Recessional: *Jesus the Joy of Loving Hearts*

#70 HB

THE DISMISSAL:

Celebrant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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Assisting Rev. Canon Simon Bell:

11:00 a.m. Service

Celebrant/Preacher: Rev. Canon Simon Bell

Bread: Fr. Simon

Imposition of Ashes: Fr. Simon
Audio/Visual: Amy Pauley

7:00 p.m. Service:

Celebrant/Preacher: Rev. Susan Snelling
Bread: Rev. Susan Snelling
Imposition of Ashes: Rev. Susan Snelling
First Reading: Beth Steffler
Second Reading: Grant Robinson
Prayers : Margaret Paradis
Gospel: Beth Steffler
Music: Craig Snider
Server: Beth Steffler
Audio/Visual: David Paradis
Sidesperson: Grant Robinson

This morning in our worship we remember in our prayers those of our family and friends who have immediate needs and concerns:

Stephanie Cryer & parents Bob & Carol; Ruby & Kirk; Cecilia Mowat & Tanya Bowskill; Rose Court; Kim Middaugh; Lorraine W; Cathy Cole; Vayda; Colleen; Wilma; Barb Semsch; Sally; Daniel Leibovich; Steve & Jade; Donna & Ray Wilson; Jim & Barb Tomkins; Stephen Bertelsen; Ron and Karen; Braedy; Gabrielle & Dom & family; Karyn; Shane & Shelly Finnigan & Families; Rose McIntyre; Rev. Janet Mitchell; Dave & Winnie Fulcher; Cole; Martin Bertelsen; Lorraine W.; Sharron Snider; Peter Hubbard; Sally Smith; Marilyn Lloyd; Theresa & Pete; Valerie; Darlene Jessem; Doreen; Brenda Jessem; Brenda & Brian; Derek; Jaxon Croft; Sean.

The names below are people in need of ongoing prayers for various reasons so we ask you to please continue to pray for them and their continuing need of God's healing touch and grace:

Donna & Ray Wilson; Mark Ralston; Jackson; Phil & Kathy C.; Bob Anderson; Nancy Perault; Marco Romita & Rose; Sharon Z; Adesh; Lisa Marie; Sophia L.; Joyce Antony; Bill & Cathy Gray; Alvin Maynard; Dave Lawrence; Livia & Neil Purcell; Sheila Green; Carrie Snow; Sheri Scott; Carl; Mark & Erin; Wally Raymond; Christine; Audrey Moody; Lynda Raye; Garn Mennell; Lee & Jeannie Martin; Michelle Sinclair and mom; Jane & Ron Lewis; Marilyn Foley; Bill Snow; Deborah Hall; Owen; Jen Galicinski; Arlene; Joan Gough; Margie Mills; Eunice Merrett; Jean Wallace; Nancy Dodds; Wendy Goodyer; Do Saunders; Jefferson Jr.; June Osolin; Tanya Wade-Vargas.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

The Diocese of Khartoum (Sudan)

In the Toronto Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

Ash Wednesday

LENT & HOLY WEEK EVENTS

- Tues. March 1st Shrove Tuesday Pancake-to-go
(Free Will offering) 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- Wed. March 2nd Ash Wednesday Services
11:00 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.
- Thurs. March 3rd LENTEN STUDIES GROUPS;
The “I ams” in John’s Gospel – for six Thursdays of Lent between 12:00 and 1:00 at St Margaret’s starting on the 3rd of March. In-person in the church and on-line.
- Fri. March 4th **Faith in the City:** Conversations in Urban Theology – for the six Friday’s of Lent between 12:00 and 1:00 at Trinity starting on the 4th of March. In-person in the church and on-line. Lunch to go.
- Mon. March 7th LENTEN BIBLE STUDY - Mondays during Lent 1:30-3:00 pm March 7th- April 11th. This study will be offered on Zoom. Rev. Susan Snelling will be reading it. **Witness at the Cross**
- Sun. April 10th Palm Sunday Services – 8:30 & 10:00 a.m.
- Mon. April 11th Evening Prayer - 7:30 p.m.
- Tues. April 12th Evening Prayer - 7:30 p.m.
- Wed. April 13th Wednesday Service with Communion
11:00 a.m. & Evening Prayer - 7:30 p.m.
- Thur. April 14th Maundy Thursday (Foot Washing) Service
7:30 p.m.
- Fri. April 15th Good Friday
Procession of the Cross – 9:30 a.m.
Reflections on the Cross – 11:00 a.m.
- Sat. April 16th Holy Saturday Service – 7:00 p.m.
followed by the Vigil on Saturday night
- Sun. April 17th Easter Sunday Services
8:30 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.