



ASH WEDNESDAY
CHORAL EVENSONG
and Imposition of Ashes

March 5, 2025

7:30 pm

*St. Bernard's, St. John on the Mountain, and St. Mark's Episcopal Churches
welcome you to begin the season of Lent together.*

Thank you for gathering in person and on Zoom to begin our observance of the season of Lent.
 We are blessed by a combined choir from the three parishes in Bernardsville and Basking Ridge
 led by Grant Mech. Restrooms can be found in the Parish House.

PRELUDE

Andante larghetto from Op. 6, No. 10

Samuel Wesley (1766-1837)

INTROIT

Lead me, Lord

Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876)

*Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness;
 make thy way plain before my face.
 For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord, only,
 that makest me dwell in safety.*

HYMN 662

Abide with me (*Eventide*)

Please stand as able and sing.

1 A - bide with me: fast falls the e - ven - tide;
 2 I need thy pres - ence ev - ery pass - ing hour;
 3 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
 4 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;

the dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide:
 what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's power?
 ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.
 shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;

when o - ther help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
 Who, like thy - self, my guide and stay can be?
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?
 heaven's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain sha - dows flee;

help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
 Through cloud and sun - shine, Lord, a - bide with me.
 I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me.
 in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

Words: Henry Frances Lyte (1793-1847). Music: *Eventide*, William Henry Monk (1823-1889).

PRECES S 58

Officiant

O God, make speed to save us.

People

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Officiant and People

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spi - rit:

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. A - men.

HYMN 25 (Phos Hilaron)

O gracious light

The Eighth Tune

1 O gra - cious Light, Lord Je - sus Christ, in
 2 Now sun - set comes, but light shines forth, the
 3 Wor - thy are you of end - less praise, O

you the Fa - ther's glo - ry shone. Im - mor - tal, ho - ly,
 lamps are lit to pierce the night. Praise Fa - ther, Son, and
 Son of God, Life - giv - ing Lord; where - fore you are through

blest is he, and blest are you, his ho - ly Son.
 Spi - rit: God who dwells in the e - ter - nal light.
 all the earth and in the high - est heaven a - dored.

This hymn may be sung unaccompanied as a four-part canon at a distance of one measure.

Words: Greek, 3rd cent.; tr. F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984); para. of *O Gracious Light*. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund.
 Music: *The Eighth Tune*, Thomas Tallis (1505?-1585); adapt. *Hymnal 1982*.

Please be seated for the Psalm.

Antiphon



Organ: *Everyone:*

The Lord is full of com-pas-sion and mer-cy,
slow to an-ger and of great kind-ness.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his Holy Name.

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. **Antiphon***

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. **Antiphon***

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. **Antiphon***

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. **Antiphon***

FIRST READING: 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.**

Please stand as able to sing.

1 Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of the Lord!
 2 Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of his Name!
 3 Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of his might!
 4 Tell out, my soul, the glo - ries of his word!

Un - num - bered bless - ings give my spi - rit voice;
 Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
 Powers and do - min - ions lay their glo - ry by.
 Firm is his prom - ise, and his mer - cy sure.

ten - der to me the prom - ise of his word;
 his mer - cy sure, from age to age the same;
 Proud hearts and stub - born wills are put to flight,
 Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of the Lord

in God my Sa - vior shall my heart re - jice.
 his ho - ly Name— the Lord, the Might - y One.
 the hun - gry fed, the hum - ble lift - ed high.
 to chil - dren's chil - dren and for ev - er - more!

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926); based on *The Song of Mary*. Copyright © 1962 by Hope Publishing Company Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: *Birmingham*, from *Repository of Sacred Music, Part II*, 1813; harm. *Songs of Praise*, 1925.

SECOND READING: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Lector A reading from the Gospel of Matthew

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."

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

POETRY PRAYER: Both, Please

Prayer by Rev. Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art | sanctifiedart.org

It's one thing to speak of love. It's another
to hold a newborn in your arms,
to sing someone to sleep,
to lean down and listen for their breathing.

It's one thing to speak of faith. It's another
to press your forehead to the floor,
to cry out in prayer,
to ask the hard questions and still
thank God for the meal.

It's one thing to speak of the Divine. It's another
to walk under a tunnel of wisteria,
to stand barefoot at the edge of the sea,
to hear the birds sing as the sun returns
and whisper, *Thank you, thank you, thank you.*

It's one thing and another, so I pray,
Give me both, please. Show me both, please.

Please stand as able to sing.

Lord God, you now have set your ser - vant free to go in
 peace as prom - ised in your word; my eyes have seen the
 world to see, to shine on na - tions trapped in dark - est night,
 the glo - ry of your peo - ple, and their light.

Words: Rae E. Whitney (b. 1927); para. of *The Song of Simeon*. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Song 1*, melody and bass Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625); harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958).

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Please stand as you are able.

BCP p. 120

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.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Please remain standing for the prayers.

BCP p. 121

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

**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.**

SUFFRAGES A

BCP pp. 121-122

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;

R. **And grant us your salvation.**

V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

R. **Let your people sing with joy.**

V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

R. **For only in you can we live in safety.**

V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;

R. **And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

V. Let your way be known upon earth;

R. **Your saving health among all nations.**

V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

R. **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;

R. **And sustain us by your Holy Spirit.**

THE COLLECTS

For Ash Wednesday

BCP p. 264

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.**

For Guidance

BCP p. 830

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favor, and further us with your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy Name, and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A prayer for mission

BCP p. 125

O God, you manifest in your servants the signs of your presence: Send forth upon us the spirit of love, that in companionship with one another your abounding grace may increase among us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE SERMON

The Reverend Dr. Clarke French,
Interim Rector, St. Mark's, Basking Ridge

INVITATION TO A HOLY LENT

Please stand as you are able. BCP p. 264

All stand, and the Officiant invites the people to the observance of a holy Lent, saying

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 as able.

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.**

People are invited forward for the Imposition of Ashes. The ashes are imposed with the following words.
Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

ANTHEM

All My Trials

Gwyneth Walker (b. 1947)

All my trials, Lord, soon be over.

All my trials, Lord, soon be over.

*If living were a thing that money could buy,
you know the rich would live, and the poor would die.*

*Hush, little baby, don't you cry,
You know your mama was born to die.*

*Too late, my brothers, too late, but never mind.
I'm going home, I must leave you here behind.*

I'm going home, O my brothers, I must leave you here behind.

THE LITANY OF PENITENCE

The clergy and people together, all kneeling as able. BCP p. 267

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 clergy and people pray responsively

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.

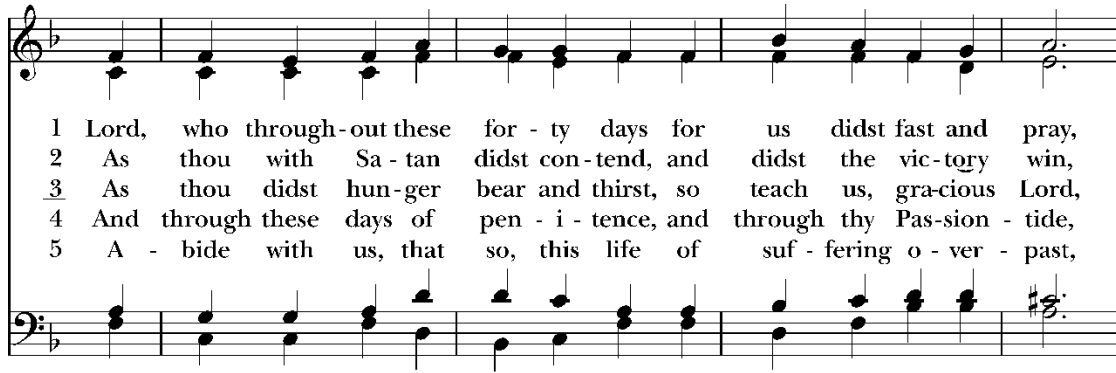
By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

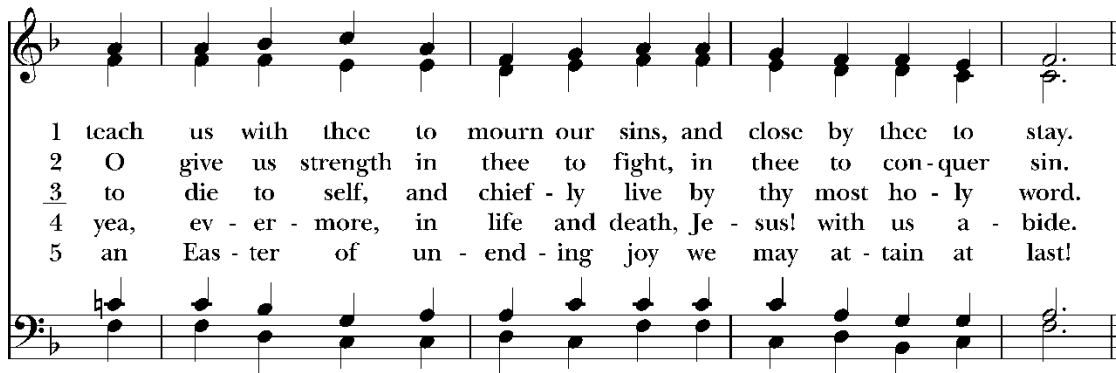
The Officiant stands and, facing the people, says

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. God pardons and absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel. Therefore we beseech God 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 as able and sing.



1 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us didst fast and pray,
 2 As thou with Sa - tan didst con-tend, and didst the vic-tory win,
 3 As thou didst hun-ger bear and thirst, so teach us, gra-cious Lord,
 4 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through thy Pas-sion - tide,
 5 A - bide with us, that so, this life of suf - fering o - ver - past,



1 teach us with thee to mourn our sins, and close by thee to stay.
 2 O give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to con-quer sin.
 3 to die to self, and chief - ly live by thy most ho - ly word.
 4 yea, ev - er - more, in life and death, Je - sus! with us a - bide.
 5 an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last!

Words: Claudia Frances Hernaman (1838-1898). Music: St. Flavian, melody from *Day's Psalter*, 1562; adapt. and harm. Richard Redhead (1820-1901).

POSTLUDE

Voluntary in D

William Croft (1678-1727)

Officiant The Reverend Beth Rauen Sciaino, St. Bernard's & St. John on the Mountain
Officiant & Preacher The Reverend Dr. Clake French, St. Mark's
Deacon The Reverend Karen B. Lewis, Deacon, St. Bernard's
Organist & Choir director Grant Mech, Director of Music, St. John on the Mountain
Lectors
Ushers
 The Choirs of St. Bernard's, St. John on the Mountain, and St. Mark's

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

April 13, Palm Sunday

7:45 am & 9 am at St. John on the Mountain
11 am at St. Bernard's Church

April 17, Maundy Thursday

6:30 pm Dinner Church at St. Mark's Church

April 18, Good Friday

12 pm, at St. John on the Mountain
6:30 pm at St. John on the Mountain *with combined choir*

April 19, Easter Vigil

8 pm at St Bernard's Church

April 20, Easter Sunday

7:45 am & 9 am at St. John on the Mountain
11 am at St. Bernard's Church



ST. BERNARD'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Rev. Beth Rauen Sciaino, *Rector* ✕ The Rev. Karen Burke Lewis, *Deacon*
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