



# St Thomas' Cathedral

Mumbai • Estd 1718

The Church of North India

*A member of the worldwide Anglican Communion*

## The First Day of Lent



## Ash Wednesday

### TEXT FOR THE DAY

Today, Ash Wednesday, calls us to be honest. Honest with God, honest with ourselves, honest within our communities, about whom we really are and who we are in Christ. We must begin with the honesty of our baptism where we are assured of our belovedness in God's mercy. Everything must begin and end there. Yet even as we are dust, mortal and too often captured by our own brokenness and that of all humanity, we are redeemed dust. We are by grace continually being made new, transformed into the likeness of Christ. The stewardship of our life in almsgiving, prayer and fasting is to set us to look toward God as the ground of our being and to all God's people as worthy of our love. Making it real and present is our work. Remember always you are dust. Every particle of your dust, your being, calls out the God-question "O creature of the earth, why are you here?" May your life be spent, offered, honest, in response.

*The Rt Revd Gladstone Bailey Adams III  
(Former Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina)*

Wednesday 17 February 2021

6 pm

Welcome

# |The Preparation & Gathering|

## Voluntary

Ich ruf zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ  
(I call to you Lord Jesus Christ)

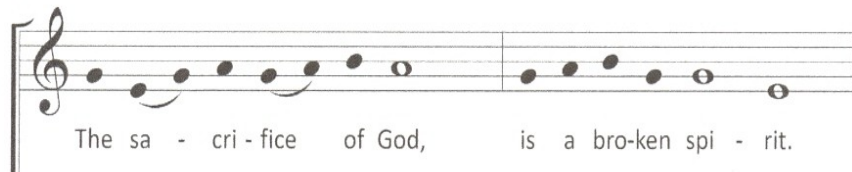
J. S. Bach, BWV 639 (1685 - 1750)

\* All keep silence and prepare for worship.\*

Please stand as the procession enters.

Psalm • 51. 1– 18  
Sung by the Cantors.

Response **The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit.**



1. Have mercy on me, O God, in your great goodness;  
according to the abundance of your compassion blot out my offences.
2. Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness  
and cleanse me from my sin.
3. For I acknowledge my faults  
and my sin is ever before me.
4. Against you only have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight.
5. So that you are justified in your sentence  
and righteous in your judgement. **Response**
6. I have been wicked even from my birth,  
a sinner when my mother conceived me.
7. Behold, you desire truth deep within me  
and shall make me understand wisdom in the depths of my heart.
8. Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean;  
wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.
9. Make me hear of joy and gladness,  
that the bones you have broken may rejoice. **Response**
10. Turn your face from my sins  
and blot out all my misdeeds.
11. Make me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.
12. Cast me not away from your presence  
and take not your holy Spirit from me.
13. Give me again the joy of your salvation  
and sustain me with your gracious spirit;
14. Then shall I teach your ways to the wicked  
and sinners shall return to you. **Response**
15. Deliver me from my guilt, O God,  
the God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.

16. O Lord, open my lips  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
17. For you desire no sacrifice, else I would give it;  
you take no delight in burnt offerings.
18. The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. **Response**

*Please be seated and keep a moments silence.*

### The Salutation

*The Presbyter*      The trumpet of the Lord sounds, calling us to examine our souls.  
*All*                      **For we have not only met temptation we have felt its grip.**

*The Presbyter*      The trumpet of the Lords sounds, calling us to mend our ways.  
*All*                      **For we have not committed sin we have felt its sting.**

*The Presbyter*      The trumpet of the Lord sounds, calling us to rent our hearts.  
*All*                      **For we have not only witnessed forgiveness we have felt its power**

*While seated, follow the words of the hymn sung by the Cantors.*

*“As the deer”*

### Hymn

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>1. As the deer pants for the water,<br/>so my soul longs after you.<br/>You alone are my heart's desire,<br/>and I long to worship you.</p> | <p>2. You're my Friend and you are my Brother,<br/>even though you are my King,<br/>I love you more than any other,<br/>so much more than anything.</p>        |
| <p><i>Refrain</i></p>  | <p><i>You alone are my Strength, my Shield;<br/>to you alone will my spirit yield.<br/>You alone are my heart's desire,<br/>and I long to worship you.</i></p> |

*Martin Nystrom (b. 1956)*

*All say*

### The Litany of Penitence

Most holy and merciful God: 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.

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.

*\* While seated listen to the Cantors sing the Kyrie eleison.\**

Have mercy on us, Lord.  
Have mercy on us, Christ.  
Have mercy on us, Lord.

*Traditional Urdu melody (Pakistan), arr. R. F. Liberius*

# |The Liturgy of the Word|

## The Collect for Ash Wednesday

*The Presbyter*

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we worthily lamenting our sins, and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

## The Lesson

*Joel 2.12-17*

TURN ye even to me, saith the Lord, with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning. And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil. Who knoweth if he will return, and repent, and leave a blessing behind him, even a meat-offering and a drink-offering unto the Lord your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly, gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts; let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet; let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O Lord, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God?

*Reader* This is the word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

## The Epistle

*The letter of James 4. 1 - 10*

### *Submit Yourselves to God*

What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us? But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says:

“God opposes the proud  
but shows favour to the humble.”

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

*Reader* This is the word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

*“Sweet the moments, rich in blessing”*

## The Gradual

*While seated, follow the words as the Cantors sing.*

1. Sweet the moments, rich in blessing,  
Which before the cross we spend,  
Life, and health, and peace possessing  
From the sinner's dying Friend.
2. Here I stay, for ever viewing  
Mercy streaming in his Blood;  
Precious drops, my soul bedewing,  
Plead and claim my peace with God.

*Continued*

3. Truly blessed in this station,  
Low before his Cross to lie,  
While I see divine compassion  
Floating in his languid eye.

4. Lord, in ceaseless contemplation  
Fix our hearts and eyes on thee,  
Till we taste thy full salvation,  
And unveiled thy glories see.

*Words: W. Shirley (1725 – 86), and others  
Tune: BATTY*

*All stand for the Gospel.*

*The Gospeller*    The Lord be with you  
*All*                    **and also with you.**

## **The Gospel of Christ**

*St. Matthew 6.16 - 21*

*When the Gospel is announced all say **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.***

JESUS said, when ye fast, be not as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face, that thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly. Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

*The Gospeller*    This is the Gospel of Christ.  
*All say*             **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

*Remain standing and recite together.*

## **The Apostles' Creed**

**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.****

All sit.

**The Homily**  
The Revd Avinash Rangayya

## | The Liturgy for Ash Wednesday |

### Invitation to a Holy Lent

The Presbyter

I invite you, 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.

### The Blessing and Imposition of Ashes

The Presbyter

God our Father,  
you create us from the dust of the earth:  
grant that these ashes may be for us  
a sign of our penitence  
and a symbol of our mortality;  
for it is by your grace alone  
that we receive eternal life  
in Jesus Christ our Saviour.

All **Amen.**

*\* Those desiring to receive the imposition of ashes proceed to the chancel steps.\**

### Invocation

Sung by the Cantors

We rise again from ashes,  
from the good we've failed to do.  
We rise again from ashes,  
to create ourselves anew.  
If all our world is ashes,  
then must our lives be true,  
an offering of ashes,  
an offering to you.

Thanks be to the Father,  
who made us like himself.  
Thanks be to the Son,  
who saved us by his death.  
Thanks be to the Spirit,  
who creates the world anew,  
from an offering of ashes,  
an offering to you.

All stand.

## | The Sharing of the Peace |

The Presbyter

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you."

(John 15:12)

The Peace of the Lord be always with you

All

**and also with you.**

*While remaining in your place, share the sign of peace with a namaste with your neighbour.  
Please kneel as able or sit.*

## | The Litany |

*Intercessor* Our Lord took the shortcut to the desert to prepare for the journey to Calvary.  
Let us prepare that we might commend ourselves as servants of the Lord.  
If we have created obstacles by leaving it to others to take the risks of faith.

*All* **Blot out our transgressions, O God.**

*Intercessor* If we have created obstacles by leaving it to others to manifest the gifts of love.

*All* **Blot out our transgressions, O God.**

*Intercessor* If we have created obstacles by leaving it to others to display the marks of truth.

*All* **Blot out our transgressions, O God.**

*Intercessor* If we have created obstacles by leaving it to others to bear the fruits of the Gospel.

*All* **Blot out our transgressions, O God.**

*Intercessor* If we have created obstacles by leaving it to others to carry the cross of Christ.

*All* **Blot out our transgressions, O God.**

**Take us with you into the desert that we might prepare for the journey to Calvary.**

*All stand and say*

### The Closing Prayer

**Created from dust,  
held together by God's extravagant love,  
we turn away from sin,  
and leave today embracing God's love.**

### The Benediction *The Presbyter*

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

*All* **Amen.**

*"I am Thine, O Lord"*

### Hymn at the Closing

*Follow the words as the Cantors sing.*

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. I am Thine, O Lord, I have heard Thy voice,<br>And it told Thy love to me;<br>But I long to rise in the arms of faith,<br>And be closer drawn to Thee. <i>Refrain</i> | 3. O, the pure delight of a single hour<br>That before Thy throne I spend,<br>When I kneel in prayer, and with Thee, my God<br>I commune as friend with friend! <i>Refrain</i> |
|--|--|

*Refrain* Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,  
To the cross where Thou hast died;  
Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer blessed Lord,  
To Thy precious, bleeding side.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 2. Consecrate me now to Thy service, Lord,<br>By the power of grace divine;<br>Let my soul look up with a steadfast hope,<br>And my will be lost in Thine. <i>Refrain</i> | 4. There are depths of love that I cannot know<br>Till I cross the narrow sea;<br>There are heights of joy that I may not reach<br>Till I rest in peace with Thee. <i>Refrain</i> |
|---|---|

*Words: William Doane (1832 -1915)  
Music: Frances Crosby (1820 -1915)*

**The Dismissal**  
*Sung by the Cantors.*

Go now in peace,  
may the love of God surround you everywhere you may go.

*Natalie Sleeth (1930 – 1992)*

**Postlude**

*“Alle Menschen müssen sterben”*  
*(All mankind must die)*

*J.S. Bach, BWV 643*

## Preparing to Prepare

*from Trinity Church, Georgia, USA*

What would you put in your backpack for 40 days with Jesus in the desert? Here are some suggestions ....

**Community** Plan to attend community Lenten practices (adapted during the current pandemic!)

**Scripture** Making a journey requires sustenance.  
We need to feed on the Word of God.

**Prayer** As Christians, we don ' t have to be alone in the desert. Jesus is with us by the Holy Spirit. We can remain in contact with him throughout the journey.

**Giving** Another way to connect with Jesus is by giving to the poor. Jesus said that He comes to be with us in the poor (*Matthew 25*)

**Fasting** Everyone always asks, what did you give up for Lent? "  
Pick something to give up for Lent

As we ' prepare to prepare ' , let us praying that God the Father would guide and direct us by His Holy Spirit how we can make this journey with Jesus in the dessert.

---

**As per Government and Diocesan guidelines, you are requested to strictly comply with the following:**

- Please cooperate with the Security as they carry out the mandatory checks before you enter. ·
- Make use of sanitizers kept at the entrance. ·
- Wearing of face covering is mandatory at all times throughout the service. ·
- Congregational singing is not yet permitted.
- Maintain the distance as indicated by the positioning of the chairs. ·
- Please take this service bulletin home with you. It is mandatory to do so. ·
- Leave as soon as the service is over. Avoid gathering outside in groups.
- Presently administration of Holy Communion is not allowed. Until further instructions from the Bishop, the service will be that of the Liturgy of the Word. Read the Diocesan advisory carefully.

**ST. THOMAS' CATHEDRAL**

3 Veer Nariman Road, Fort, Mumbai – 400 001

Presbyter-In-Charge: The Revd. Avinash T. Rangayya

Telephone: (Vestry) **2283 9783**, (R) **2207 1275, 98207 50090**

Contact the Presbyter for pastoral visits and administering Communion to the house-bound.

FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY. PLEASE TAKE THIS SERVICE BULLETIN HOME WITH YOU.