

Welcome to
St. John's Episcopal Church
Chula Vista, CA

Ash Wednesday

February 17, 2021
7:00 pm

Livestreamed worship service

*No matter who you are or where you are on your spiritual journey,
you are welcome here*



Burning of Palms

The Word of God

Presider Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People ***His mercy endures for ever.***

The Collect of the Day

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. ***Amen.***

The Lessons

A Reading from the Book of Joel

Joel 2:1-2,12-17

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?'"

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Psalm 103:8-14 *Benedic, anima mea*

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 Second Lesson

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

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,

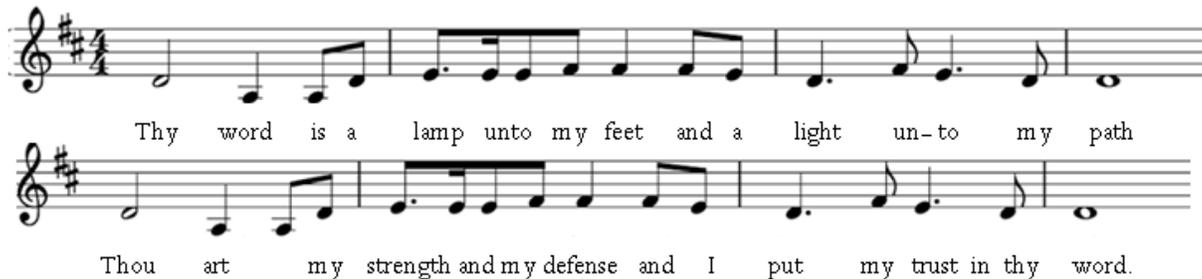
"At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you."

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual



Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light un-to my path
Thou art my strength and my defense and I put my trust in thy word.

The Gospel

Matthew 6:1-6,16-21

Gospeller 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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

A moment of silent reflection will be kept

Invitation to the Observance of a Holy Lent

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.

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.

Imposition of Ashes

If you wish to be marked with ashes, you may use the ashes provided. Please impose ashes on the forehead of one another or on your own forehead

As ashes are imposed, please say the following words:

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

Psalm 51

***Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.***

***Wash me through and through from my wickedness
and cleanse me from my sin.***

***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.***

***And so you are justified when you speak
and upright in your judgment***

***Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth,
a sinner from my mother's womb.***

***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.***

***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.***

***Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.***

Litany of Penitence

The Presider and People together:

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 Presider continues

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.

Presider 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.

The Peace

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Greet one another in the Name of Christ, or name those whom you hold dear in your heart

The Offertory

Presider I appeal to you by the mercies of God, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. *Romans 12:1*

Anthem

The Thanksgiving Litany

Presider The Lord be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Presider Let us pray

Let us give thanks to God our Father for all his gifts so freely bestowed upon us.

For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea,
We thank you, Lord.

For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women, revealing the image of Christ,
We thank you, Lord.

For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends,
We thank you, Lord.

For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve,

We thank you, Lord.

For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play,

We thank you, Lord.

For the brave and courageous, who are patient in suffering and faithful in adversity,

We thank you, Lord.

For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, and justice,

We thank you, Lord.

For the communion of saints, in all times and places,

We thank you, Lord.

Above all, we give you thanks for the great mercies and promises given to us
in Christ Jesus our Lord;

***To him be praise and glory, with you, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.
Amen.***

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

***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.

Spiritual Communion

Spiritual Communion is an ancient practice of the church. As we continue our celebration of the Word made flesh, we welcome his coming into our lives. It is our desire to receive Jesus in the Sacrament of Holy Communion, so even though we may not receive the presence of Christ physically, we may receive Christ spiritually. The Church offers us a prayer for Spiritual communion. Let us pray together:

***Blessed Jesus, I believe that we are fed with the spiritual food of your Body and Blood.
Since I cannot receive You sacramentally today, I now desire to receive you into my soul.
Unite my heart with those of my community gathered to offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and make us all one with you. May this spiritual communion strengthen my faith and grant
me confidence in your loving care now and forever. Amen.***

Closing Collect

Let us pray

Lord, protect us in our struggle against evil. Let the light of your truth bestow sight in the darkness of sinful eyes. May this season of repentance bring us the blessing of your forgiveness and the gift of your light.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Blessing

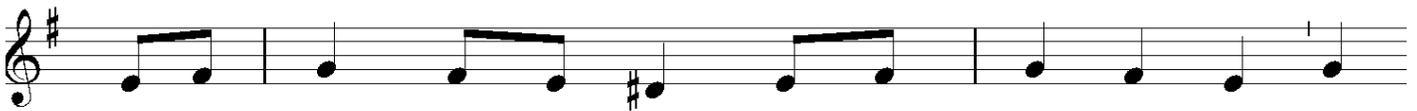
Presider Look with compassion, O Lord, upon this your people; that, rightly observing this holy season, they may learn to know you more fully, and to serve you with a more perfect will;

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

The Glory of These Forty Days

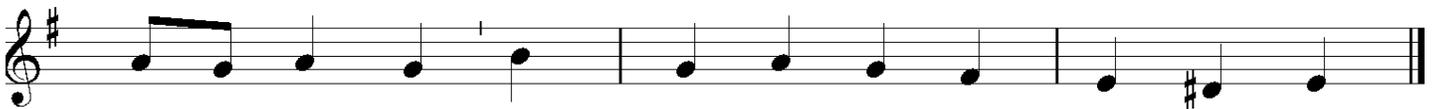
Hymnal #143, vs. 1,2,4,5



1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we
2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the
4 Then grant us, Lord, like them to be full
5 O Fa - ther, Son, and Spi - rit blest, to



1 ce - le - brate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all
2 lov - ing God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,
4 oft in fast and prayer with thee; our spi - rits strength - en
5 thee be ev - ery prayer ad - dressed, who art in three - fold



1 things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.
2 fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.
4 with thy grace, and give us joy to see thy face.
5 Name a - dored, from age to age, the on - ly Lord.

The Dismissal

Presider Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Liturgical Ministers

Presider	Rev. Roger Haenke
Assisting Priest	Rev. Cathey Dowdle
Reader/Prayers	Pamela Brittain
Psalmist/Vocalist	Jane Ferguson
Organist	Cheryl Seppala
Video/Livestream	Cliff Berkowitz

St. John's Mission Statement

St. John's is a Christian community that intentionally gathers to experience God's love through Episcopal worship, education, fellowship, and ministry to the wider community.

St. John's Prayer Lists

*Today and every day include some time for prayer, for yourself,
for your church family, and for those in need.*

For Our Military

Matt Jensen, Drew Shorkey, Cody Crossland, Cameron Ronie, Chariti Paden, Mark Stanfield, Sean Robinson, Jonathan Martinez, TK Nguyen, Christopher Lindshield, Timothy Lindshield, Jeremy Colton, David Sanchez, Jonathan Baldera, Nick Wyatt, Jamal Warner, Matt Hernandez, Daniel Getreu, Jocelyn Hernandez, Devon Strunk, Taylor Harrold, Jorge Zuazua, Katherine Milam, Sebastian Morales, Richie Lebron and Roberto Johnson.

For Strength in Time of Need

Scott Hunter, Betty Robertson, Steve Magill, Gary & Shirley McCarren, Brian Elly, Ed Thomas, Priscilla Szymanski, Hugh Strachwitz, Cyd and Paige, and Andrew and Jillian.

*(Names are kept on the Prayers List for 4 weeks and should be submitted by Wednesday.
If you wish to add a name, please email Maria Love at: maria@saint-johns.org.)*

We Are Available in Your Time of Need

If you have a pastoral emergency when the parish offices are closed, please call Rev. Roger at 619-301-0724 or email revroger@saint-johns.org

St. John's Clergy	St. John's Vestry
<p>The Rev. Roger Haenke, <i>Rector</i> The Rev. Cathey Dowdle, <i>Pastoral Assistant</i></p>	<p>David Dennehy, <i>Senior Warden</i> (619) 840-9994 masterfrog@att.net Terry Farrelly, <i>Treasurer</i> Diane Gustafson, <i>Clerk</i> Pamela Brittain Tom Brzeczek Ray Contreras Jane Ferguson Muriel Kulikowski Alejandra Valdez-Ber Lynn Young</p>

St. John's Episcopal Church
760 First Avenue Chula Vista, CA 91910-6012
(619) 422-4141
Email: maria@saint-johns.org
www.saint-johns.org