**Ash Wednesday**

**February 26th 2020 at 7 pm**

**Imposition of Ashes with Holy Eucharist**

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**INFORMATION FOR NEWCOMERS: WELCOME TO CHRIST CHURCH!**



Our motto is true whether you're here for the very first time

or you've been a member for decades –

**There is a place for you at God's Table!**

The worship service has two main parts: the Liturgy of the Word, which includes Scripture readings and a homily, and the Liturgy of the Table, which is also called Holy Eucharist or Communion. You will notice moments in the service when people stand, kneel, bow, and make the sign of the cross -- all of these are completely optional. You are encouraged to participate in every aspect of worship, according to your comfort level.

All who seek Christ are welcome at His Table for Communion. If you do not wish to receive communion, you may come forward and request a blessing. If you wish to receive communion in your pew, please notify the ushers. And if you need a gluten-free wafer, just let Rev. Maggie know.

If you have not been baptized, or if you have questions about Holy Baptism, please talk to Rev. Maggie and/or Deacon Rick after the service -- the people of Christ Church would love to walk with you to your baptism and beyond!

**THE WORD OF GOD**

(\*please rise as you are comfortable)

\*THE SOLEMN PROCESSION

*The worship service begins in silence.*

\*THE SALUTATION

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People**: God’s mercy endures forever.**

*\**THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

**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 FIRST LESSON 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?'"

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

### THE PSALM (read responsively) Psalm 103:8-18

8 The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, \*  
slow to anger and of great kindness.

9 He will not always accuse us, \*  
nor will he keep his anger for ever.

10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, \*  
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, \*  
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

12 As far as the east is from the west, \*  
so far has he removed our sins from us.

13 As a father cares for his children, \*  
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.

14 For he himself knows whereof we are made; \*  
he remembers that we are but dust.

15 Our days are like the grass; \*  
we flourish like a flower of the field;

16 When the wind goes over it, it is gone, \*  
and its place shall know it no more.

17 But the merciful goodness of the Lord endures for ever on those who fear him, \*  
and his righteousness on children's children;

18 On those who keep his covenant \*  
and remember his commandments and do them.

\*GOSPEL HYMN: “My God, accept my heart this day” Hymnal 697 vs 1-2

\*THE HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Deacon: 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."

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

\*GOSPEL HYMN: “My God, accept my heart this day” Hymnal 697 vs 3-4

THE HOMILY The Rev.Maggie Leidheiser-Stoddard

\*THE INVITATION TO A HOLY LENT

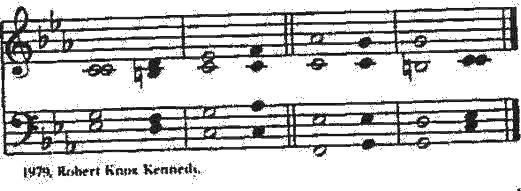
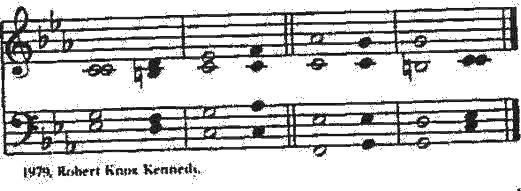
Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for 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.

*Please kneel as you are comfortable.*

THE BLESSING OF THE ASHES

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*Those who wish to be marked with ashes are invited to come to the altar rail, as directed by the ushers.*



THE PENITENTIAL PSALM Psalm 51

1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-**kindness;\***

in your great compassion blot out my o**ffenses.**

2 Wash me through and through from my **wickedness\***

and cleanse me from my **sin.**

3 For I know my trans**gressions\*,**

and my sin is ever be**fore** **me.**

4 Against you only have I **sinned\***

and done what is evil in your **sight.**

5 And so you are justified when you **speak\***

and upright in your **judgment**.

6 Indeed, I have been wicked from my **birth,\***

a sinner from my mother’s **womb.**

7 For behold, you look for truth deep within **me,\***

and will make me understand wisdom **secretly.**

8 Purge me from my sin, and I shall be **pure;\***

wash me, and I shall be clean in**deed.**

9 Make me hear of joy and **gladness,\***

that the body you have broken may re**joice.**

10 Hide your face from my **sins\***

and blot out all my i**niquities.**

11 Create in 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 the joy of your saving help a**gain\***

and sustain me with your bountiful **Spirit.**

14 I shall teach your ways to the **wicked,\***

and sinners shall return to **you.**

15 Deliver me from death, O **God,\***

and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness**,** O God of my sal**vation.**

16 Open my lips, O **Lord,\***

and my mouth shall proclaim your **praise.**

17 Had you desired it, I would have offered **sacrifice;\***

but you take no delight in burnt-**offerings.**

18 The sacrifice of God is a troubled **spirit;\***

a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not de**spise.**

THE LITANY OF PENITENCE *The Celebrant and People together, all kneeling (as you are comfortable).*

**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.**

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.**

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: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you**.

**THE HOLY COMMUNION**

THE OFFERTORY: “Lay up for Yourselves” (Ned Rorem)

\*PRESENTATION: **Praise God from whom all blessings flow;** Tune: *Old 100th*

**Praise God, all creatures here below;**

**Praise God for all that love has done:**

**Creator, Christ, and Spirit, one! Amen.**

\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B (expansive language)

*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.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you.

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:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,** Hymnal S124

**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.**

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in Jesus Christ, the

Word made flesh. For in these last days you sent Jesus to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Savior 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 Jesus 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.”

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember Christ’s death. We proclaim Christ’s resurrection. We await Christ’s coming in glory.**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Savior of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, through whom we are acceptable to you, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Blessed Mother Mary and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Savior, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. ***AMEN.***

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD Hymnal S161

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.** (front section of Hymnal)

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.**

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN: “Just as I am, without one plea” Hymnal 693

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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

\*THE BLESSING

*The Celebrant pronounces God’s blessing over the people. The people respond:* ***Amen.***

\*CLOSING HYMN:“Lord, who throughout these forty days” Hymnal 142

\*THE DISMISSAL *Deacon:* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord..

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

**Ministers for February 26th, 2020**

**Altar Guild:** Cathy Yeazell and Gretchen Hicks

**Acolyte:** Sarah Schubert

**Chalice Bearer:** The Rev. Rick Incorvati

**Lector:** Fred Bartenstein

**Ushers:** Anne Strothman and Jeff Carter

**Greeters:** Jon and Jesse Leidheiser-Stoddard

**General Information**

**Rector:** The Rev.Maggie Leidheiser-Stoddard

**Deacon**: The Rev. Rick Incorvati

**Senior Warden**: Dawn Ivy

**Junior Warden**: Jim Whipp

**Treasurer**: Ken Bladh

**Vestry at Large**: Bonnie Bingman, Chris Oldstone-Moore, Cathy Hasecke,

Brian Shelburne, Joyce Spangler, Denise Sharp, and Keith Doubt

**Youth Representative:** Sarah Schubert

**Parish Administrator & Program Coordinator**: Kelly Zeller

**Director of Music**: Dr. Christopher Durrenberger

**Youth Teacher:** Abby Glass

**Nursery Attendant**: Jerushia Knox

**Facility Manager**: Paul McAfee

**Bookkeeper:** Tina Knox



**Christ Episcopal Church**

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