

# Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021

**Prelude:** *O Lord, Throughout these Forty Days* LBW 99 (words on page 5)

## \*Greeting

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

## \*Prayer of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may obtain from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## Word

### First Reading

Isaiah 58: 1-12

**1** “Shout it aloud, do not hold back. Raise your voice like a trumpet. Declare to my people their rebellion and to the descendants of Jacob their sins. **2** For day after day they seek me out; they seem eager to know my ways, as if they were a nation that does what is right and has not forsaken the commands of its God. They ask me for just decisions and seem eager for God to come near them. **3** ‘Why have we fasted,’ they say, ‘and you have not seen it? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you have not noticed?’ “Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please and exploit all your workers. **4** Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife, and in striking each other with wicked fists. You cannot fast as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high. **5** Is this the kind of fast I have chosen, only a day for people to humble themselves? Is it only for bowing one’s head like a reed and for lying in sackcloth and ashes? Is that what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? **6** “Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? **7** Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? **8** Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard. **9** Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I. “If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, **10** and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. **11** The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. **12** Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.

## Psalm 51: 1-17

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your unfailing love;  
according to your great compassion  
blot out my transgressions.
- 2 **Wash away all my iniquity  
and cleanse me from my sin.**
- 3 For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is always before me.
- 4 **Against you, you only, have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight;  
so you are right in your verdict  
and justified when you judge.**
- 5 Surely I was sinful at birth,  
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
- 6 **Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb;  
you taught me wisdom in that secret place.**
- 7 Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;  
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
- 8 **Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.**
- 9 Hide your face from my sins  
and blot out all my iniquity.
- 10 **Create in me a pure heart, O God,  
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.**
- 11 Do not cast me from your presence  
or take your Holy Spirit from me.
- 12 **Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.**
- 13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
so that sinners will turn back to you.
- 14 **Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God,  
you who are God my Savior,  
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.**
- 15 Open my lips, Lord,  
and my mouth will declare your praise.
- 16 **You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;  
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.**
- 17 My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart  
you, God, will not despise.

**\*Holy Gospel**

Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

**6** “Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

**2** “So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. **3** But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, **4** so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. **5** “And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. **6** But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

**16** “When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. **17** But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, **18** so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

**19** “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. **20** But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. **21** For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

**Homily**

**Hymn**      *Be Thou My Vision*      WOV 776 (words on page 5)

**CONFESSION**

Leader: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Most Merciful God,

**Congregation: we confess to you and to one another  
and before the whole company of heaven,  
that we have sinned by our fault,  
by our own fault,  
by our own most grievous 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, O God.**

Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

In solemn reverence, let us take a moment in silence to reflect on the significance of this day and turn our hearts over to God so that we may experience God's love, grace and forgiveness in a new way. I offer the sacred reminder that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

#### ABSOLUTION

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,  
**that we may show forth your glory in the world.**

By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,  
**bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

**Amen.**

**Hymn**

*On my heart imprint your image*

LBW 102 (words on page 5)

## HYMN (1)

**Prelude:**

***O Lord, throughout These Forty Days***

**LWB 99**

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|---|--|
| 1- O Lord, through-out these forty days<br>You prayed and kept the fast;<br>Inspire repentance for our sin,<br>And free us from our past.   | 2- You strove with Satan, and you won;<br>Your faithfulness endured;<br>Lend us your nerve, your skill and trust<br>In God's eternal Word. |
| 3- Though parched and hungry, yet you prayed<br>And fixed your mind above;<br>So teach us to deny ourselves<br>That we may know God's love. | 4- Be with us through this season, Lord,<br>And all our earthly days,<br>That when the final Easter dawns,<br>We join in heaven's praise.  |

Text: based on Claudia F. Heraman, 1838-1898; para, Gilver E Doan, b. 1930 Tune: Psalter, Eninburgh, 1635

## HYMN (2)

***Be Thou my Vision***

**WOV 776**

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|--|---|
| 1- Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;<br>Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art:<br>Thou my best thought, by day and by night,<br>Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light. | 2- Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;<br>I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;<br>Thou my soul's shelter, Thou my high tower,<br>Raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow' |
| 3- Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,<br>Thou mine inheritance, now and always:<br>Thou, and Thou only, first in my heart,<br>great God of heaven, my treasure Thou art.       | 4- Light of my soul, after victory won,<br>May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!<br>Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,<br>Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.          |

Text: Irish 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> cent: tr. Mary E. Byrne. 1880-1931; vers. Eleanor H. Hull. 1860-1935 alt.

## HYMN (3)

***On my heart imprint your image***

**LBW 102**

On my heart imprint your image,  
Blessed Jesus, king of grace,  
That life's troubles nor its pleasures  
Ever may your work erase;  
Let the clear inscription be:  
Jesus, crucified for me,  
Is my Life, my hope's foundation,  
And my glory and salvation!

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634-1703, tr. Peer O. Stromme, 1856-1921, alt.

## The Benediction