



# ASH WEDNESDAY

IMPOSITION OF ASHES  
February 22, 2023 | 12:00pm

*Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, when we begin a time of reflection, self-examination, and spiritual redirection. Lent originated in the very earliest days of the Church as a time of preparation for Easter, when the faithful rededicated themselves and when converts were instructed in the faith and prepared for baptism. Jesus was sent by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness for forty days to prepare for his ministry. By observing Lent, we join Jesus on his fast in the wilderness as we consider our mortality and dependence on God, and open ourselves to repentance, new life, and ministry to others.*

*During services on Ash Wednesday, we mark our foreheads with an ashen cross. In the Bible a mark on the forehead is a symbol of a person's ownership; therefore, being marked with a cross symbolizes that the person belongs to God. This is in imitation of the spiritual mark that is put on in baptism, when we are "marked as Christ's own forever." The ashes are traditionally made from palm fronds from the previous year's Palm Sunday observance. Note that during Lent, the "Alleluias" are omitted at the Breaking of the Bread.*

*The people's responses are in bold.*

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

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*Please stand, as you are able, as the ministers enter.*

### COLLECT OF THE DAY

*BCP, p. 264*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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.**

*Please be seated.*

### OLD TESTAMENT

*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

*Please read responsively by whole verse.*

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.

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.**

*Please stand, as you are able.*

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

*Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**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.**

## THE SERMON

*The Rev. J. Malone Gilliam*

THE EXHORTATION

BCP, p. 264

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 kept for a time.*

*Please kneel, as you are able.*

THE PRAYER OVER THE ASHES

BCP, p. 265

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.**

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

BCP, p. 265

*The ashes are imposed with the following words:*

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

PSALM 51

BCP, p. 266

*The Psalm is read during the Imposition of Ashes.*

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| <p>1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; *<br/>in your great compassion blot out my offenses.</p> <p>2 Wash me through and through from my wickedness *<br/>and cleanse me from my sin.</p> <p>3 For I know my transgressions, *<br/>and my sin is ever before me.</p> <p>4 Against you only have I sinned *<br/>and done what is evil in your sight.</p> <p>5 And so you are justified when you speak *<br/>and upright in your judgment.</p> <p>6 Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, *<br/>a sinner from my mother's womb.</p> <p>7 For behold, you look for truth deep within me, *<br/>and will make me understand wisdom secretly.</p> <p>8 Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; *<br/>wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.</p> <p>9 Make me hear of joy and gladness, *<br/>that the body you have broken may rejoice.</p> <p>10 Hide your face from my sins *<br/>and blot out all my iniquities.</p> | <p>11 Create in me a clean heart, O God, *<br/>and renew a right spirit within me.</p> <p>12 Cast me not away from your presence *<br/>and take not your holy Spirit from me.</p> <p>13 Give me the joy of your saving help again *<br/>and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.</p> <p>14 I shall teach your ways to the wicked, *<br/>and sinners shall return to you.</p> <p>15 Deliver me from death, O God, *<br/>and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,<br/>O God of my salvation.</p> <p>16 Open my lips, O Lord, *<br/>and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.</p> <p>17 Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice; *<br/>but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.</p> <p>18 The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; *<br/>a broken and contrite heart, O God,<br/>you will not despise.</p> |
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*Please kneel, as you are able.*

THE LITANY OF PENITENCE

*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.**

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.**

#### PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

Grant, most merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Please stand, as you are able.*

#### SILENT PROCESSION

#### THE DISMISSAL

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The congregation departs in silence.*

*The alms basins for the offering may be found in the back of the church.*

#### WORSHIP NOTES

*Clergy* The Rev. Dr. David Barr, celebrant; the Rev. J. Malone Gilliam, preacher; the Rev. Margery Kennelly; and the Rev. Richard Kew

*Verger* Gail Thompson

*Acolyte* Eric Grasman

*Lectors* Ella Redkevitch, Mary Jackson, and Eric Grasman

*Ushers* Gareth Aden, Jan Callen, Brandon Jackson, Mary Margaret Peel

*Greeter* Leslie Ann Wilson

The aumbry candle in the Nave today is given to the Glory of God and in thanksgiving for the friendship of St. George's Episcopal Church by Dr. B.I. Naddy of St. Peter's Episcopal Church.

## LENTEN OFFERINGS

### Lenten Church Dinner & Conversation

Our Lenten Wednesday table fellowship and discussion explores seeing Christ in the darkness, as we engage with art around the same theme. His presence there draws our attention to things we might otherwise avoid. Christ's love encourages hope. Reflections from artists including singer-songwriters, storytellers and visual artists will be highlighted in the program.

**Wednesdays, March 1 - 29**

**6:00pm Parish Dinner in Legacy Hall**

**6:30pm Programming for all ages**

Adults will stay in Legacy Hall

Youth Group upstairs in Akers Hall (grades 7 - 12)

Children's programming in Room 205 with a special clergy visitor (ages 3 and up)

Nursery for 8 weeks - 2 years old available by reservation only

Please make a reservation online for dinner, and pre-pay for a smooth check in on Wednesday nights. Nursery reservations must be made no later than the Monday prior by 4:30pm. Cost for dinner is \$12 per adult; \$5 per child; \$30 family max. Register at [stgeorgesnashville.org/lentendinner](http://stgeorgesnashville.org/lentendinner).

Children's meals are generously provided by Waldo's. Please note that due to spring break, there will be no children's meal, nursery, or children/youth programming on March 15.

### Ladies' Lenten Lunches

Women of the church are invited for fellowship and lunch during Lent to nourish body and soul. Each week, we'll hear from an engaging speaker - come for one event or come to all. We'll meet on Thursdays, March 2, 9, and 23, at noon in Johnson Hall. Register for the \$12 lunch at [stgeorgesnashville.org/ladieslunches](http://stgeorgesnashville.org/ladieslunches).

March 2 - Melanie Shinbaum, CEO of St. Luke's Community House

March 9 - Anne Morgan, Parishioner and Clinical Counselor with trauma survivors

March 23 - Carol Smith, LMFT of Insight Counseling

### Lenten Food Drive

This Lent, we'll have a collection of non-perishable food items for Bellevue Community Food Bank, which supports residents in Belle Meade, Bellevue, West Nashville, Fairview, and Pegram. Collection bins will be available around the church from Sunday, February 25 through Sunday, March 26. Bring your donations to the church or shop online through our Amazon wish list -

details coming soon. Stay tuned for a list of items that are especially needed right now. Questions? Contact Agatha Nolen, Director of Outreach, [agatha.nolen@stgeorgesnashville.org](mailto:agatha.nolen@stgeorgesnashville.org) or 615-385-2150 x 246.

### Art Show: Christ in the Darkness

This Lent, we will practice seeing Christ in the darkness. This is not about being Pollyanna; it is about true recognition of human suffering and a Christian witness to the Incarnation and all that encompasses. Seeing Christ in the Darkness is an excellent collection of the world-class prints of Georges Rouault, one of the most important printmakers of the 20th century. We invite you to view this art exhibition on Sundays or during gallery hours (Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00-4:00pm). Group tours are available by appointment. For additional information, call 615-385-2150.

## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

### Palm Sunday April 2

7:30am Rite I in the Nave

8:45am Rite II in the Nave, starting with procession

9:00am The Table in Legacy, starting with procession

11:00am Rite I in the Nave

11:00am The Table in Legacy Hall

5:00pm Evening Prayer with Holy Eucharist in Chapel

### Maundy Thursday April 6

7:30pm Holy Eucharist in the Nave

Prayer Vigil immediately following in the Chapel

### Good Friday April 7

12:00pm Service in the Nave

3:00pm Children's Stations of the Cross in Bradford Gallery

6:00pm Service in the Nave

### Easter Vigil April 8

7:30pm The Great Vigil of Easter in the Nave

### Easter Sunday April 9

7:00am Rite I in the Nave

8:45am Rite II in the Nave

9:00am The Table in Legacy Hall

11:00am Rite I in the Nave

11:00am The Table in Legacy Hall

5:00pm Evening Prayer with Holy Eucharist in Chapel

Children's Egg Hunt following the 8:45am and 9:00am services.

## STAFF MINISTRY TEAM

The Rev. J. Malone Gilliam, Rector  
The Rev. Colin Ambrose, Vice Rector & Chief of Staff  
The Rev. Dr. David Barr, Associate Rector  
The Rev. Dr. Chris Jones, Associate Rector  
The Rev. Margery Kennelly, Associate Rector  
The Rev. Richard Kew, Priest Associate  
The Ven. Dr. Martin Odidi, Priest Associate  
The Rev. Sarah Puryear, Priest Associate  
The Rev. Roger Senechal, Priest Assoc. for Senior Ministries  
The Rev. Tim Taylor, Priest Associate

Dr. Woosug Kang, Dir. of Music Ministries  
Gerry Senechal, Assoc. Dir. of Music Ministries & Organist  
Becca Jordan, Music Leader for The Table  
Dr. Wilma Jensen, Organist/Choirmaster Emerita  
Martha Rodes, Dir. of Lay Ministry Engagement  
Robin Puryear, Dir. of Pastoral Care  
Agatha Nolen, Dir. of Outreach  
Cate Jones, Dir. of Children's & Family Ministries  
Daniel Huff, Dir. of Youth Ministries  
Catherine Beemer, Dir. of Parish Giving  
Rebecca Teel, Dir. of Communications  
Laura Zabaski, Parish Administrative Officer

## 2023 VESTRY

Jan Callen  
Stephanie Gillmor  
Patricia Haerberle  
Amy Harwell  
Kate Meriwether  
Jonathan Morphett  
Will Newman  
David Silvester  
Emily Walker  
Hudson Walker  
Breck Wheeler  
Greg Wilber

## CONNECT WITH US



We want to know you and help you feel at home here. Scan this QR code or visit [stgeorgesnashville.org/contact](http://stgeorgesnashville.org/contact) to tell us about you and your family.



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Podcast | Sermons from St. George's



YouTube | [St. George's Nashville](https://www.youtube.com/StGeorgeNashville)



If you have a "T" switch that is compatible with audio induction systems on your hearing aids, you may switch it on to hear the service better.



Using a smartphone and headphones or a Bluetooth-enabled hearing device, you can tune into the service using AudioFetch. Connect to the Wi-Fi network called AudioFetchExpress, then open the AudioFetch app to start listening.

## SUNDAY SERVICES

7:30am, 8:45am, and 11:00am | Holy Eucharist  
9:00am | The Table  
5:00pm | Evening Prayer with Holy Eucharist

## WEEKDAY SERVICES (CHAPEL)

7:00am Monday - Saturday | Holy Eucharist  
10:00am Wednesday | Holy Eucharist with Healing Prayer



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