



ST. DAVID'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**ASH WEDNESDAY**  
Imposition of Ashes  
February 17, 2021

The Lord be with you.

✠ **And also with you.**

Let us pray.

**COLLECT FOR ASH WEDNESDAY**

**BCP, P. 264**

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.**

A Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

**GOSPEL:** Matthew 6:1-6,16-21

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 Word of the Lord.

✠ **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## INVITATION TO A HOLY LENT

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 then kept for a period of time.*

## IMPOSITION OF ASHES

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 remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. ✠ **Amen.**

*The ashes are imposed with the following words*

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

*Silence is then kept for a period of time.*

## MUSIC

### CLOSING PRAYER

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we beseech you to grant us true repentance and your Holy Spirit, that those things may please you 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 your eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ✠ **Amen.**

*People leave in silence.*