



## ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

Imposition of Ashes & Holy Eucharist



# ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

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SAVANNAH

*The Truth of the Bible*  
*In the Beauty of the Anglican Tradition.*  
*Believe. Worship. Love. Serve.*

## WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S

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**Mission.** St. John's Church is building a community in Christ that is grounded in historic faith and reverent worship and is committed to sharing the life-transforming truth of the Gospel.

**Worship Schedule.** Our non-holiday Sunday schedule is: 8 a.m. Holy Communion in the church; Our 9 a.m. Family Worship Service has a new schedule (Morning Prayer in the church on the first, third, and fifth Sundays of the month and Holy Communion in the chapel on the second and fourth Sundays); and 11 a.m. Holy Communion in the church on the first, third, and fifth Sundays of the month with Morning Prayer on the second and fourth Sundays. The 11 a.m. is also livestreamed. Morning Prayer is online each weekday at 8:15 a.m. **Please visit [StJohnsSav.org](http://StJohnsSav.org) for a list of weekday services during Lent.**

**Children's Nursery.** Available for Ash Wednesday in Cranmer Hall for this service.

**For Guests and Visitors.** We extend a warm welcome to guests and visitors worshipping with us today and look forward to getting to know you!

**Interactive Worship.** The congregation participates actively in worship, and this booklet is a guide to taking part in it. It is based on the **1940 Hymnal**, and the smaller **1928 Prayer Book**.

**Ways to Give:** To support the ministries at St. John's Church, you may choose to give in several ways.

- **Collection Plate** – You may give in the offering, perhaps using an offering envelope.
- **Text** – Simply text 1928BCP to 73256 and receive a link where you can donate online.
- **Online** – Visit our website at [StJohnsSav.org](http://StJohnsSav.org) and click GIVE (top right of menu)
- **Automated** – Give automatically by setting up bill pay through your checking account.
- **Mail** – Send your check to St. John's Church, 1 West Macon Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401.

## HOW WE WORSHIP AND WHY – THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

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There is nothing living, that will not one day be turned to dust, to a handful of dust that the wind blows away. That's why the ancient custom for expressing sorrow – including sorrow for sin – was to pour dust and ashes on head and body. When rebuked by God, Job says, "I repent in dust and ashes" (Job 42:6). And after Adam rebelled against God in the garden, God warned him of his eventual return to the dust, "for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return" (Genesis 3:19). On Ash Wednesday, those are the words which the priest says to the faithful, as he imposes the sign of ashes on their foreheads: "Remember, O man, that dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return." In accepting those ashes we acknowledge our solidarity with sinful Adam, and the death both spiritual and physical that is the wages justly paid for our disobedience to God, the source of all life. We acknowledge that we start out not where Adam started, in the life-giving harmony and peace of Eden, but where he left off, in the wilderness of toil, under the shadow of death, in need of redemption. Yet, precisely in acknowledging the justice of God's judgment against us, we appeal for his mercy to save us from ourselves: "Turn thy face from my sins, and put out all my misdeeds/ Make me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me" (Ps 51:9, 10). This dust can only live again if God himself cleanses and renews us by his Word and Spirit. And so our humble repentance in dust and ashes is a plea for spiritual resurrection, through faith in the perfect obedience of Christ. "As in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall be made alive" (1 Corinthians 15:22).

## ASH WEDNESDAY

Help us, O God of our salvation, and for the glory of thy name, O Lord, deliver us:  
and be merciful unto our sins, for thy name's sake. (Ps. 79)

*All stand for the entrance of the Clergy, and be seated for the Lesson.*

### THE PENITENTIAL OFFICE

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The Lesson (*all seated*) Isaiah 58 or Jonah 3 & 4

The Penitential Office (*all kneeling*) .....Prayer Book, page 60-63

The Blessing and Imposition of Ashes

*Minister.* The Lord be with you. *Answer.* **And with thy spirit.** *Minister.* Let us pray.

**A**LMIGHTY and everlasting God, who forgavest the people of Nineveh when they repented in sackcloth and ashes: Mercifully grant that we, truly repenting of our sins, may obtain of thee perfect pardon and release; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Let us pray.

**O** GOD, who wouldest not the death of a sinner, but rather that he should turn from his wickedness and live; we beseech thee to have compassion upon the frailty of our nature, and of thy goodness to bless and sanctify these ashes now to be set upon our heads as a token of humility and a recollection of our mortality; that we, acknowledging ourselves to be but dust and ashes, may of thy mercy be found worthy of our Redemption, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Anyone wishing to have ashes placed on his forehead should come forward and kneel at the altar rail.*

*Priest:* Remember, O man, that dust thou art and unto dust shalt thou return.

### LENTEN PROSE

*To be sung during the distribution of ashes*

*Refrain:* Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us: for we have sinned against thee.

1. To thee Redeemer, on thy throne of glory: lift we our weeping eyes in holy pleadings: listen, O Jesu, to our supplications. *Refrain*
2. O thou chief Corner-stone, Right Hand of the Father: Way of Salvation, Gate of Life Celestial: cleanse thou our sinful souls from all defilement. *Refrain*
3. God, we implore thee, in thy glory seated: bow down and hearken to thy weeping children: pity and pardon all our grievous trespasses. *Refrain*
4. Sins oft committed now we lay before thee: with true contrition, now no more we veil them: grant us, Redeemer, loving absolution. *Refrain*
5. Innocent, captive, taken unresisting: falsely accused, and for us sinners sentenced, save us, we pray thee, Jesu our Redeemer. *Refrain.*

## ANTHEMS

*To be said or sung immediately after the distribution of ashes.*

*All say:* Hear us, O Lord, for thy loving-kindness is comfortable: according to the multitude of thy mercies, turn thee unto us, O Lord.

*Priest:* Save me, O God, for the waters are come in, even unto my soul.

*Answer:* I stick fast in the deep mire, where no ground is; I am come into deep waters, so that the floods run over me.

*Priest:* Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:

*People:* As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

*All say:* Hear us, O Lord, for thy loving-kindness is comfortable: according to the multitude of thy mercies, turn thee unto us, O Lord.

Let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O Lord, spare them, and turn not away the faces of them that call upon thee, O Lord.

Let us change our raiment for sackcloth and ashes: Let us fast and mourn before the Lord; for our God is merciful to forgive us our sins.

*Minister:* The Lord be with you. *Answer.* **And with thy spirit.** *Minister:* Let us pray.

**O** GOD, who art justly angry, and dost mercifully pardon, accept the tears of thy afflicted people, and graciously turn away thy wrathful indignation, which they justly deserve; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray.

**G**RANT to us, O Lord, to put on the armour of our Christian warfare with holy fastings; that we who are about to fight against spiritual wickedness, may be defended by the power of abstinence, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## THE ANTE-COMMUNION

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HYMN (*all stand*) 12 noon: #55 *Forty Days and Forty Nights*..... Heinlein  
5 p.m. : #59 *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days* ..... St. Flavian

*Minister:* The Lord be with you. *Answer.* **And with thy spirit.** *Minister:* Let us pray.

Opening Prayers & The Collect for Purity (*all kneel*)..... Prayer Book, p. 67

The Summary of the Law (*all kneel*) .....Prayer Book, p. 68-69

KYRIE ELEISON (*all kneel*) Hymnal #702 (Hymnal, page 743).....John Merbecke  
(*Said at 7 a.m. service; sung at noon and 5 p.m. services.*)

Lord have mercy have upon us. Christ have mercy upon us. Lord have mercy have upon us.

The Collect of the Day (*all kneel*) ..... Prayer Book, p. 124

The Epistle Joel 2:12 ..... Prayer Book, p. 124

The Holy Gospel (*all stand*) St. Matthew 6:16..... Prayer Book, p. 125

*(The Nicene Creed is not said today.)*

Address *(all sit)*

## THE OFFERTORY

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Sentences *(all stand)*

OFFERTORY VOLUNTARY *(all sit)* 12 noon. *I Heard the Voice of Jesus* (Kingsfold).....Eugene Englert

ANTHEM *(all sit)* 5 p.m. "If With All Your Hearts", from *Elijah* .....Felix Mendelssohn  
Jonathan Murphy, *tenor*

If with all your heart ye truly seek Me, Ye shall ever surely find Me: Thus saith our God.  
Oh, that I knew where I might find Him, That I might even come before His presence.

Presentation of Alms *(all stand)* #732 *All Things Are Thine (Sung at noon and 5 p.m.)* ..... Gardiner

All things are thine; no gift have we, Lord of all gifts, to offer thee;  
And hence with grateful hearts today Thine own before thy feet we lay. **Amen.**

The Biddings and the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

Priest: Of your charity I bid your prayers for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed:  
Rest eternal grant into them, O Lord; *Answer: And let light perpetual shine upon them.*  
*Priest: May they rest in peace. Amen.*

The Prayer for Christ's Church *(all kneel)*.....Prayer Book, p. 74

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

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Invitation, Confession *(said by all, all kneeling until Blessing)* .....Prayer Book, p. 75

ALMIGHTY God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men; We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, Which we, from time to time, most grievously have committed, By thought, word, and deed, Against thy Divine Majesty, Provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, And are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; The remembrance of them is grievous unto us; The burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, Forgive us all that is past; And grant that we may ever hereafter Serve and please thee In newness of life, To the honour and glory of thy Name; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Absolution and Comfortable Words.....Prayer Book, p. 75-76

Sursum Corda #734 (Hymnal, page 788).....or Prayer Book, p. 76

*Priest: The Lord be with you. / Answer: And with thy spirit.*

*Priest: Lift up your hearts. / Answer: We lift them up unto the Lord.*

*Priest: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God. / Answer: It is meet and right so to do.*

SANCTUS and BENEDICTUS Hymn #704/ #796 (Hymnal)..... John Merbecke

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY, Lord God of hosts, Heav'n and earth are full of thy glory: Glory be to thee,  
O Lord Most High. Amen. Blessed is he that cometh in the Name of the Lord: Hosanna in the Highest.

The Prayer of Consecration: Institution, Oblation, Invocation..... Prayer Book, p. 80

The Lord's Prayer..... Prayer Book, p. 82

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.

Prayer of Humble Access (*said with the congregation*)..... Prayer Book, p. 82

WE do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy: Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his Body, and our souls washed through his most precious Blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

AGNUS DEI #706 (Hymnal, page 749) ..... John Merbecke  
*Priest:* O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world / *Answer:* Have mercy upon us.  
*Priest:* O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world / *Answer:* Have mercy upon us.  
*Priest:* O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world / *Answer:* Grant us thy peace.

HYMN 12 noon: #190 *Let Thy Blood in Mercy Poured*.....Luise  
5 p.m.: # 337 *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*.....Rockingham

Prayer of Thanksgiving (*said with the congregation*)..... Prayer Book, p. 83

The Blessing (*all kneel*) ..... Prayer Book, p. 84

Hymn 12 noon : #56 *Kind Maker of the World*..... Jesu Dulcis Memoria  
5 p.m. : #61 *The Glory of These Forty Days*.....Spires



**LENTEN READING**



***Images of Pilgrimage* -- Fr. Robert Crouse**

This recently published book is a collection of six spiritual addresses meditating on the themes of wilderness and paradise found in Western spirituality. Lent is the most fitting liturgical season to read on these themes as we follow Christ into the wilderness in fasting, almsgiving, and prayer. Copies may be purchased in the church office, online and are also available on Kindle (about 20\$). An excellent study guide by Rhea Bright can be purchased separately. This work will also be the topic for a book discussion class at St. John's Sunday School, starting Feb. 18.

***Low Anthropology* -- David Zahl**

Author and theologian David Zahl explores how our ideas about human nature influence our expectations in friendship, work, marriage, & politics. Copies are available in the church office for \$20.

***Being Disciples: Essentials of the Christian Life* - Rowan Williams**

The companion to the best-selling *Being Christian*. Copies are available in the church office for 12\$

## AS IN ADAM ALL DIE

The ceremony that gives the first day of Lent its traditional name, Ash Wednesday, speaks to the heart of the gospel. Ashes are imposed on the foreheads of the faithful by the priest, who says, “Remember, O man, that dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.” – a form of words derived from God’s judgment on Adam’s disobedience (Genesis 3:19). With those words we acknowledge our solidarity with sinful Adam, and the death both spiritual and physical that is the wages justly paid for our disobedience to God, the source of all life. Yet, precisely in acknowledging the justice of God’s judgment against us, we appeal for his mercy to save us from ourselves: “Turn thou us, O good Lord, and so shall we be turned.” This dust can only live again if God himself converts us to himself and reforms us by his Word. And so our repentance is a plea for spiritual resurrection, through the perfect obedience of Christ. “As in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall be made alive” (1 Corinthians 15:22).

*“First the ashes, the recollection of our mortality; then the bread of heaven and the cup of salvation, the recollection of our redemption and atonement. Nowhere else in the Church year are the depth of our need and the wonder of God’s grace more precisely embodied.”*

o W. H. Ralston

## LENTEN DISCIPLINE

**I**n the Forty Days that begin on Ash Wednesday, the faithful take upon themselves the disciplines commended by Christ: fasting, almsgiving and prayer (Matthew 6:1-18). Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting (no food until evening and then a modest meal). The other weekdays of Lent are days of abstinence (customarily from flesh meat, together with moderation in other pleasures). The sick and infirm; the very young and very old; and those engaged in heavy labour, are dispensed from the fasting rule; but they should practice self-denial in other ways.

Fasting, prayer, and almsgiving are “fruits meet for repentance” (Matthew 3:8). In them our repentance in thought (contrition) and word (confession) becomes repentance in deed (satisfaction). In gratitude for the unmerited mercy freely given by God to those who repent and believe the Gospel of his Son, we seek in these disciplines to die to sin and rise again to holiness and righteousness of life. In almsgiving we exercise love of neighbor; in prayer we exercise love of God; in fasting and abstinence we practice self-denial without which we can love neither neighbor nor God.

– GGD

## KEEPING LENT

### FASTING

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting and prayer for all — except as required by reason of age, health, demanding physical labour, or work. A light lunch and no flesh meat may be kept in the evening. The rest of Lent's forty days (Sundays excluded) are kept as days of abstinence (reduction in quality of food) traditionally from flesh meat (fish permitted).

### PRAYER

“Pray without ceasing” is the Scripture's injunction, and the practice since the time of the apostles has been to pray at fixed times of day, chiefly morning and evening. The Church's daily Prayer (Morning and Evening Prayer as set forth in the Prayer Book) provides immersive reading of Scripture in the context of shared penitence, praise, and petition. It is said in the Chapel on certain days (see schedule nearby) and may be said privately with Prayer Book and Bible and list of lessons published each week in the Friday parish email and available in paper copies at the church. It is also said online Monday to Friday at 8:15 a.m. The Holy Communion or Lord's Supper is administered daily throughout Lent. See the current schedule on the right-side column.

### ALMSGIVING

The money we save by fasting and abstinence (money we might have spent on pricey restaurant meals or other amusements and indulgences) is now free to meet the needs of the poor, both material and spiritual. The main thing is to give: in the practice of charity do we grow in love.



### ASH WEDNESDAY, FEB. 14<sup>TH</sup>

*Private Confessions with the Clergy*  
1:30- 2:30 p.m. in the Church  
(and by appointment)

### WEEKDAY SERVICES DURING LENT

#### Monday – Friday

8:15 a.m. *Morning Prayer*, Online

**Monday:** 5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*  
*with Holy Communion*, Chapel

**Tuesday:** 8:30 a.m. *Morning Prayer*  
*with Holy Communion*, Chapel  
5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*, Chapel

**Wednesday:** 8:30 a.m. *Morning Prayer*, Chapel  
11:50 a.m. *Litany & Holy Communion*, Church  
5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*, Chapel  
9 p.m. *Sung Compline*, Church

**Thursday:** 8:30 a.m. *Morning Prayer*  
*with Holy Communion*, Chapel  
5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*  
*with Holy Communion*, Chapel

**Friday:** 5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*  
*with Holy Communion*, Chapel

#### Saturdays

11 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Chapel

Visit [StJohnsSav.org](http://StJohnsSav.org) for Sunday  
services & other events during Lent.

## ST. JOHN'S CHURCH - SAVANNAH

*Worship in the Anglican Tradition*

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