

# ANTE COMMUNION HEALING SERVICE

## ASH WEDNESDAY



**OPENING SALUTATION** Blessed be God: father, Son, and Holy Spirit. *And blessed be his Kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.*

**PENITENTIAL ORDER** If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:8,9

The Deacon or Celebrant then says: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.  
Silence may be kept.

Minister and People *Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you 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; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.*

The Bishop when present, or the Priest, stands and says: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

Lord, have mercy.  
*Christ, have mercy*  
Lord, have mercy

### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. *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.*

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:1-12

A reading from the Book of Isaiah

<sup>1</sup>Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. <sup>2</sup>Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me

righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. <sup>3</sup>"Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. <sup>4</sup>Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. <sup>5</sup>Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? <sup>6</sup>Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? <sup>7</sup>Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? <sup>8</sup>Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. <sup>9</sup>Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, <sup>10</sup>if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. <sup>11</sup>The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. <sup>12</sup>Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

**PSALM 103:8-14**      *Benedic, anima mea*

<sup>8</sup> The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and of great kindness.

<sup>9</sup> *He will not always accuse us, nor will he keep his anger for ever.*

<sup>10</sup> He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

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

<sup>12</sup> As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our sins from us.

<sup>13</sup> *As a father cares for his children, so does the LORD care for those who fear him.*

<sup>14</sup> For he himself knows whereof we are made; he remembers that we are but dust.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.*

**THE SECOND READING**      *2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10*

A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

<sup>20b</sup>We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. <sup>1</sup>As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup>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! <sup>3</sup>We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup>but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup>beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup>by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, <sup>7</sup>truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup>in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup>as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see- we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup>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.*

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

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew **X** *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>"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. <sup>3</sup>But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. <sup>5</sup>"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. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>"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. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup>but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

The Gospel of the Lord. *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

**HOMILY**

**A LITANY OF HEALING** Deacon: Let us name before God those for whom we offer our prayers.

*The People audibly name those for whom they are interceding.*

Lector: God the Father, your will for all people is health and salvation; ***we praise you and thank you, O Lord.***

God the Son, you came that we might have life, and might have it more abundantly; ***we praise you and thank you, O Lord***

God the Holy Spirit, you make our bodies the temple of your presence; ***we praise you and thank you, O Lord.***

Holy Trinity, one God, in you we live and move and have our being; ***we praise you and thank you, O Lord.***

Lord, grant your healing grace to all who are sick, injured, or disabled, that they may be made whole; ***Hear us, O Lord of life.***

Grant to all who seek your guidance, and to all who are lonely, anxious, or despondent, a knowledge of your will and an awareness of your presence: ***Hear us, O Lord of life.***

Mend broken relationships, and restore those in emotional distress to soundness of mind and serenity of spirit; ***Hear us, O Lord of life.***

Bless physicians, nurses, and all others who minister to the suffering, granting them wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience; ***Hear us, O Lord of life.***

Grant to the dying peace and a holy death, and uphold by the grace and consolation of your Holy Spirit those who are bereaved; *Hear us, O Lord of life.*

Restore to wholeness whatever is broken by human sin, in our lives, in our nation, and in the world; *Hear us, O Lord of life.*

You are the Lord who does wonders: *You have declared your power among the peoples*

With you, O Lord, is the well of life: *And in your light we see light.*

Hear us, O Lord of life: *Heal us, and make us whole.*

Let us pray. A period of silence follows. Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear what we ask in the Name of your Son: Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**LAYING ON OF HANDS AND ANOINTING** Savior of the world, by your cross and precious blood you have redeemed us. *Save us, and help us, we humbly beseech you, O Lord.*

O God, the source of all health: So fill our hearts with faith in your love, that with calm expectancy we may make room for your power to possess us, and gracefully accept your healing. Comfort and relieve all those for whom we pray, give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that they may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*If you desire to receive the Laying on hands for yourself or on behalf of someone else, let us know.*

N., I lay my hands upon you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, beseeching our Lord Jesus Christ to sustain you with his presence, to drive away all sickness of body and spirit, and to give you that victory of life and peace which will enable you to serve him both now and evermore

**THE PEACE** The peace of the Lord be always with you. *And also with you.*

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** And now, filled by the Spirit we may pray, *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.*

**A COLLECT FOR PEACE** Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that in tranquility your dominion may increase until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

**PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION** Let us pray, *Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.* (St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)

**THE BLESSING** May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be

among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

***THE DISMISSAL*** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord! ***Thanks be to God!***