

Wednesday Year 2  
Morning Prayer – Ash Wednesday

### **Opening Sentence**

If we say 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. I John 1:8, 9

### **Versicle and Response**

Lord, open our lips.

And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

### **Invitatory**

**95** *Venite, exultemus*

1 Come, let us sing to the Lord; \*  
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

2 Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving \*  
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

3 For the Lord is a great God, \*  
and a great King above all gods.

4 In his hand are the caverns of the earth, \*  
and the heights of the hills are his also.

5 The sea is his, for he made it, \*  
and his hands have molded the dry land.

6 Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, \*  
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

7 For he is our God,  
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. \*  
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

8 Harden not your hearts,  
as your forebears did in the wilderness, \*  
at Meribah, and on that day at Massah,  
when they tempted me.

9 They put me to the test, \*  
though they had seen my works.

10 Forty years long I detested that generation and said, \*  
"This people are wayward in their hearts;

they do not know my ways."

11 So I swore in my wrath, \*  
"They shall not enter into my rest."

## **Psalms**

### **32**

1 Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, \*  
and whose sin is put away!  
2 Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, \*  
and in whose spirit there is no guile!  
3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, \*  
because of my groaning all day long.  
4 For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; \*  
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.  
5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, \*  
and did not conceal my guilt.  
6 I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." \*  
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.  
7 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; \*  
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.  
8 You are my hiding-place;  
you preserve me from trouble; \*  
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.  
9 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; \*  
I will guide you with my eye.  
10 Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; \*  
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,  
or else they will not stay near you."  
11 Great are the tribulations of the wicked; \*  
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.  
12 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; \*  
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

### **143**

1 Lord, hear my prayer,  
and in your faithfulness heed my supplications; \*  
answer me in your righteousness.

2 Enter not into judgment with your servant, \*  
for in your sight shall no one living be justified.

3 For my enemy has sought my life;  
he has crushed me to the ground; \*  
he has made me live in dark places like those who  
are long dead.

4 My spirit faints within me; \*  
my heart within me is desolate.

5 I remember the time past;  
I muse upon all your deeds; \*  
I consider the works of your hands.

6 I spread out my hands to you; \*  
my soul gasps to you like a thirsty land.

7 O Lord, make haste to answer me; my spirit fails me; \*  
do not hide your face from me  
or I shall be like those who go down to the Pit.

8 Let me hear of your loving-kindness in the morning,  
for I put my trust in you; \*  
show me the road that I must walk,  
for I lift up my soul to you.

9 Deliver me from my enemies, O Lord, \*  
for I flee to you for refuge.

10 Teach me to do what pleases you, for you are my God; \*  
let your good Spirit lead me on level ground.

11 Revive me, O Lord, for your Name's sake; \*  
for your righteousness' sake, bring me out of trouble.

(12 Of your goodness, destroy my enemies  
and bring all my foes to naught, \*  
for truly I am your servant.)

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

## **Reading**

### **Amos 5:6-15**

6 Seek the Lord and live,  
or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire,  
and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it.

7 Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood,  
and bring righteousness to the ground!

8 The one who made the Pleiades and Orion,  
and turns deep darkness into the morning,  
and darkens the day into night,  
who calls for the waters of the sea,  
and pours them out on the surface of the earth,  
the Lord is his name,

9 who makes destruction flash out against the strong,  
so that destruction comes upon the fortress.

10 They hate the one who reproves in the gate,  
and they abhor the one who speaks the truth.

11 Therefore, because you trample on the poor  
and take from them levies of grain,  
you have built houses of hewn stone,  
but you shall not live in them;  
you have planted pleasant vineyards,  
but you shall not drink their wine.

12 For I know how many are your transgressions,  
and how great are your sins—  
you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe,  
and push aside the needy in the gate.

13 Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time;  
for it is an evil time.

14 Seek good and not evil,  
that you may live;  
and so the Lord, the God of hosts, will be with you,  
just as you have said.

15 Hate evil and love good,  
and establish justice in the gate;  
it may be that the Lord, the God of hosts,  
will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

### **Canticle 14 A Song of Penitence**

O Lord and Ruler of the hosts of heaven, \*  
God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,  
and of all their righteous offspring:

You made the heavens and the earth, \*  
with all their vast array.

All things quake with fear at your presence; \*  
they tremble because of your power.

But your merciful promise is beyond all measure; \*  
it surpasses all that our minds can fathom.

O Lord, you are full of compassion, \*  
long-suffering, and abounding in mercy.

You hold back your hand; \*  
you do not punish as we deserve.

In your great goodness, Lord,  
you have promised forgiveness to sinners,\*  
that they may repent of their sin and be saved.

And now, O Lord, I bend the knee of my heart, \*  
and make my appeal, sure of your gracious goodness.

I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned, \*  
and I know my wickedness only too well.

Therefore I make this prayer to you: \*  
Forgive me, Lord, forgive me.

Do not let me perish in my sin, \*  
nor condemn me to the depths of the earth.

For you, O Lord, are the God of those who repent, \*  
and in me you will show forth your goodness.

Unworthy as I am, you will save me,  
in accordance with your great mercy, \*  
and I will praise you without ceasing all the days of my life.

For all the powers of heaven sing your praises, \*  
and yours is the glory to ages of ages. Amen.

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

## **Reading**

### **Luke 18:9-14**

9 He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: 10‘Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax-collector. 11The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, “God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax-collector. 12I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.” 13But the tax-collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, “God, be merciful to me, a sinner!” 14I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.’

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

### **Canticle 16**

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;\*  
he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior,\*  
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old,  
that he would save us from our enemies,\*  
from the hands of all who hate us.

he promised to show mercy to our fathers\*  
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham,\*  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear,\*  
holy and righteous in his sight  
all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,\*  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation\*  
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God\*  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,\*  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

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

### **The Apostle's Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Lord be with you.  
And also with you.  
Let us pray.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,

your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.

### **Suffrages**

Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

Govern and uphold them, now and always.

Day by day we bless you;

We praise your name for ever.

Lord, keep us from all sin today;

Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.

Lord, show us your love and mercy;

For we put our trust in you.

In you, Lord, is our hope;

And we shall never hope in vain.

### **Collect of the Day: Ash Wednesday**

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 Collect for Peace**

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **For Mission**

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

## **Prayers and Intercessions**

Let us pray now for our own needs and those of others.

### **General Thanksgiving**

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

### **Benediction**

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 3:20,21