

ASH WEDNESDAY

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH—JEBEL ALI

YEAR A, B, C

INTRODUCTORY RITE

Entrance Antiphon

Lord, you are merciful to all, and hate nothing you have created. You overlook the sins of men to bring them to repentance. You are the Lord our God.

Entrance hymn

*Faith in God can move mountains.
Trust in him can calm the sea.
He's my fortress, he's my stronghold,
he's the rock who rescues me.*

1. Lord, you are my refuge,
never let me be ashamed.
In your justice rescue me,
turn to me and hear my prayer.
2. You are my salvation;
from oppression set me free.
Ever since my childhood
you have been my only hope.
3. Bitter troubles burden me,
but you fill me with new life.
From the grave you raise me up,
so my tongue will sing your praise.

Greeting

C: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

All: AMEN

C: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Opening Prayer

Lord, protect us in our struggle against evil. As we begin the discipline of Lent, make this season holy by our self-denial.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

2:12-18

A reading from the prophet Joel

Let your hearts be broken, not your garments torn.

Now, now — it is the Lord who speaks — come back to me with all your heart, fasting, weeping, mourning.” Let your hearts be broken not your garments torn, turn to the Lord your God again, for he is all tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in graciousness, and ready to relent. Who knows if he will not turn again, will not relent, will not leave a blessing as he passes, oblation and libation for the Lord your God? Sound the trumpet in Zion! Order a fast, proclaim a solemn assembly, call the people together, summon the community, assemble the elders, gather the children, even the infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his bedroom and the bride her alcove. Between vestibule and altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, lament. Let them say, “Spare your people, Lord! Do not make your heritage a thing of shame, a byword for the nations. Why should it be said among the nations, ‘Where is their God?’” Then the Lord, jealous on behalf of his land, took pity on his people.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 50:3–6. 12-14. 17. R. v.3

R: Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin. **R**
2. My offences truly I know them;
my sin is always before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned:
what is evil in your sight I have done. **R**
3. A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **R**
4. Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me.
O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall declare your praise. **R**

Second Reading

5:20 - 6:2

A reading from the second letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

Be reconciled to God...now is the favourable time.

We are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God. As his fellow workers, we beg you once again not to neglect the grace of God that you have received. For he says: At the favourable time, I have listened to you; on the day of salvation I came to your help. Well, now is the favourable time; this is the day of salvation. This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Ps 50:12. 14

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

A pure heart create for me, O God, and give me again the joy of your help.

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

Gospel

6:1–6. 16–18

C: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

C: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Your Father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you.

Jesus said to his disciples: “Be careful not to parade your good deeds before men to attract their notice; by doing this you will lose all reward from your Father in heaven. So when you give alms, do not have it trumpeted before you; this is what the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win men's admiration. I tell you solemnly, they have had their reward. But when you give alms, your left hand must not know what your right is doing; our almsgiving must be secret, and your Father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you.

“And when you pray, do not imitate the hypocrites: they love to say their prayers standing up in the synagogues and at the street corners for people to see them. I tell you solemnly, they have had their reward. But when you pray go to your private room and, when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in that secret place, and your Father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you.

“When you fast do not put on a gloomy look as the hypocrites do: they pull long faces to let men know they are fasting. I tell you solemnly, they have had their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that no one will know you are fasting except your Father who sees all that is done in secret; and your Father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Blessing and Giving of Ashes

C: Dear friends in Christ,
let us ask our Father to bless these ashes which we will use as the mark of our repentance.

Silent prayer

C: Lord, bless the sinner who asks for your forgiveness and bless ✠ all those who receive these ashes. May they keep this lenten season in preparation for the joy of Easter.

C: Turn away from sin and be faithful to the gospel.

Responsory

C: Direct our hearts to better things, O Lord; heal our sin and ignorance. Lord, do not face us suddenly with death, but give us time to repent.

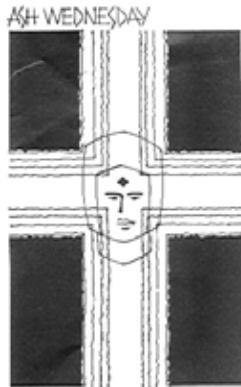
R: Turn to us with mercy, Lord; we have sinned against you.

V: Help us, God our saviour, rescue us for the honour of your name.

R: Turn to us with mercy, Lord; we have sinned against you.

During Giving of Ashes

1. Many times I have turned
from the way of the Lord.
Many times
I have chosen the darkness
in the light of the day.
When the shadows are gone
all I see is my sins in its starkness.
*Jesus came to bring us mercy
Jesus came to bring us life again.
He loves me, He loves me, He loves me.*
2. I confess I have sinned
in the sight of the Lord
through my pride,
through my malice and weakness
I have rejected the promise
that comes from the Cross
where the Lord hung above us in meekness.
3. With a word, with a deed
with a failure to act,
with a thought that was evil and hateful
I confess to you brothers
and sisters of mine
I have sinned and been proven ungrateful.
4. Through my fault, through my fault
through my serious fault I confess to you
Lord all my sinning
but look down on me Lord
grant your pardon and peace
with your help I have a new life beginning.



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Offertory Hymn

1. All that I am, all that I do,
All that I'll ever have,
I offer now to you.
*Take and sanctify these gifts
For your honour, Lord.
Knowing that I love and serve you
Is enough reward.
All that I am, all that I do.
All that I'll ever have
I offer now to you.*
2. All that I dream, all that I pray,
All that I'll ever make,
I give to you today.



The Offering

(If no song is sung, then the people may make the responses to the prayer of offering given here.)

- C:** Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.
- P:** Blessed be God for ever.
- C:** Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become our spiritual drink.
- P:** Blessed be God for ever.
- C:** Pray, brethren, that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.
- P:** May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his Church.

Prayer over the gifts

Lord, help us to resist temptation by our lenten works of charity and penance. By this sacrifice may we be prepared to celebrate the death and resurrection of Christ our Saviour and be cleansed from sin and renewed in spirit.

Eucharistic Prayer

- C:** The Lord be with you.
- P:** And also with you.
- C:** Lift up your hearts.
- P:** We lift them up to the Lord.
- C:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- P:** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The Acclamation

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Memorial Acclamation

- C:** Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
- P:** Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.

Communion Rite

- C:** Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Saviour gave us:
- All:** Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.
- C:** Deliver us, Lord, from every evil, and grant us peace in our day. In your mercy keep us free from sin and protect us from all anxiety as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
- All:** For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.

Breaking of the Bread

- All:** Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.
- C:** This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are those who are called to his supper.
- All:** Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon

The man who meditates day and night on the law of the Lord will yield fruit in due season.

Communion Hymn

1. My God loves me,
his love will never end.
He rests within my heart
for my God loves me.
 2. His gentle hand
he stretches over me.
Though storm clouds threaten the day
he will set me free.
 3. He comes to me
in sharing bread and wine.
He brings me life that will reach
past the end of time.
 4. My God loves me,
his faithful love endures,
and I will live like a child
held in love secure.
1. Take and receive, O Lord, my liberty;
take all my will, my mind, my memory.
Do Thou direct, and govern all and sway;
do what Thou wilt, command and I obey.
*Only Thy grace and love on me bestow;
possessing these, all riches I forego.*
 2. All things I hold and all I own are Thine;
Thine was the gift, to Thee I all resign.
Do Thou direct, and govern all and sway;
do what Thou wilt, command and I obey.

Prayer After Communion

Lord,
through this communion may our lenten penance give you glory and bring us your protection.

Concluding Rite

- C:** The Lord be with you.
- P:** And also with you.
- C:** May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.
- P:** Amen.
- C:** The Mass is ended, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
- P:** Thanks be to God.

Recessional Hymn

1. In His time, in His time;
He makes all things beautiful in His time.
Lord, please show me everyday,
as you're teaching me your way,
that you do just what you say in your time.
2. In your time, in your time;
you make all things beautiful in your time.
Lord, my life to you I bring,
with its winter and its spring,
may I fathom everything in your time.
3. There's a time, there's a time;
both for sowing and for reaping there's a time.
Time for losing, time for gain,
time for joy and time for pain;
ev'ry purpose under heaven has a time.
4. There are times, there are times;
weeks and months we cannot understand God's ways.
If for years we fail to scan
what is His eternal plan,
we'll remember that He can, all the time.



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