

Readings, Collect and Year's Mind
Wednesday 5th March 2025
Ash Wednesday

Opening Hymn NEH 67 Forty days and forty nights

Collect for Ash Wednesday

O Lord, grant that we your people
may enter this season of penitence with faithfulness,
and complete it with steadfast devotion;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end. **Amen**

First Lesson **Isaiah 58: 1-12** (*Read by Rupert Forbes*)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah, chapter 58, verses 1 to 12.

- ¹ 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.
- ² Yet day after day they seek me
 and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practised righteousness
 and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgements,
 they delight to draw near to God.
- ³ '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.
- ⁴ 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.

- ⁵ 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?
- ⁶ 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?
- ⁷ 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?
- ⁸ 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 rearguard.
- ⁹ 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,
- ¹⁰ 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.
- ¹¹ 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.
- ¹² 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

Glory to Christ our Saviour.

¹Beware of practising your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

²So 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. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵And 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. ⁶But 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.

¹⁶And 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. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so 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.

¹⁹Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

Praise to Christ our Lord

Offertory Hymn NEH 294 Just as I am, without one plea

Anthem Wash Me Thoroughly Wesley

Post Communion Prayer for Ash Wednesday

God of compassion,
through your Son Jesus Christ
you reconciled your people to yourself.
Following his example of prayer and fasting,
may we obey you with willing hearts and serve one another in holy love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Closing Hymn NEH 76 Take up thy cross, the Saviour said

Readings for the day

*Isaiah 58. 1-12; Psalm 51: 1-18; 2 Corinthians 5: 20b - 6: 10;

*Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

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