



Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney's Lent Course 2024

# THE WAY TO THE CROSS

WEDNESDAY 14 FEBRUARY



## *Ash Wednesday to Lent 1 14-17 February*

Joel 2.1-2,12-17

2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10

Psalms 51.1-17

Matthew 6.1-6,16-21

### **Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21**

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

"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. 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. "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. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, 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. "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

## *Collect for Ash Wednesday*

O Lord, grant that  
your faithful 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.

**Joel 2:1-2,12-17**

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain!  
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,  
for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near--  
a day of darkness and gloom,  
a day of clouds and thick darkness!  
Like blackness spread upon the mountains  
a great and powerful army comes;  
their like has never been from of old,  
nor will be again after them in ages to come.  
Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart,  
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;  
rend your hearts and not your clothing.  
Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,  
and relents from punishing.  
Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,  
and leave a blessing behind him,  
a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord, your God?  
Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast;  
call a solemn assembly; gather the people.  
Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged;  
gather the children, even infants at the breast.  
Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy.  
Between the vestibule and the altar  
let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep.  
Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord,  
and do not make your heritage a mockery,  
a byword among the nations.  
Why should it be said among the peoples, Where is their God?"

Remember you  
are dust, and to  
dust you shall  
return.

Turn away from  
sin and be  
faithful to  
Christ.

Words at the Imposition  
of Ashes



**Psalm 51:1-17**

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
 according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.  
 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.  
 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.  
 Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your  
 sight, so that you are justified in your sentence  
 and blameless when you pass judgment.  
 Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.  
 You desire truth in the inward being;  
 therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.  
 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me,  
 and I shall be whiter than snow.  
 Let me hear joy and gladness;  
 let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.  
 Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.  
 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit  
 within me.  
 Do not cast me away from your presence,  
 and do not take your holy spirit from me.  
 Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
 and sustain in me a willing spirit.  
 Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
 and sinners will return to you.  
 Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,  
 O God of my salvation,  
 and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.  
 O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.  
 For you have no delight in sacrifice;  
 if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.  
 The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;  
 a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

**2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10**

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our  
 sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might  
 become the righteousness of God.  
 As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the  
 grace of God in vain. 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! We  
 are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found  
 with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended  
 ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions,  
 hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours,  
 sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness,  
 holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of  
 God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for  
 the left; in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We  
 are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are  
 well known; as dying, and see-- we are alive; as punished, and yet  
 not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making  
 many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

The sacrifice of  
 God is a broken  
 spirit: a broken  
 and contrite  
 heart you  
 will not despise.

Psalm 51: 17

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*Lord God Almighty,  
 your people are  
 washed clean in the  
 saving flood of  
 baptism, and born  
 again:  
 As we follow the way  
 of the cross, we ask  
 you to unseal for us  
 the wellspring of  
 your grace,  
 cleanse our hearts of  
 all that is not holy,  
 and cause your gift  
 of new life to  
 flourish in us; grant  
 this through  
 Jesus Christ your  
 Son, who sets us free  
 from sin, and lives  
 and reigns with you  
 in the unity of the  
 Holy Spirit,  
 holy and mighty God,  
 world without end.  
 Amen.*