

# *The First Presbyterian Church* *in the City of New York*

Ash Wednesday 2021

---

## GATHERING

OPENING SENTENCES

MUSIC FOR WORSHIP

Chorale paraphrase on “Hear Us, O Lord”

Jeanne Demessieux

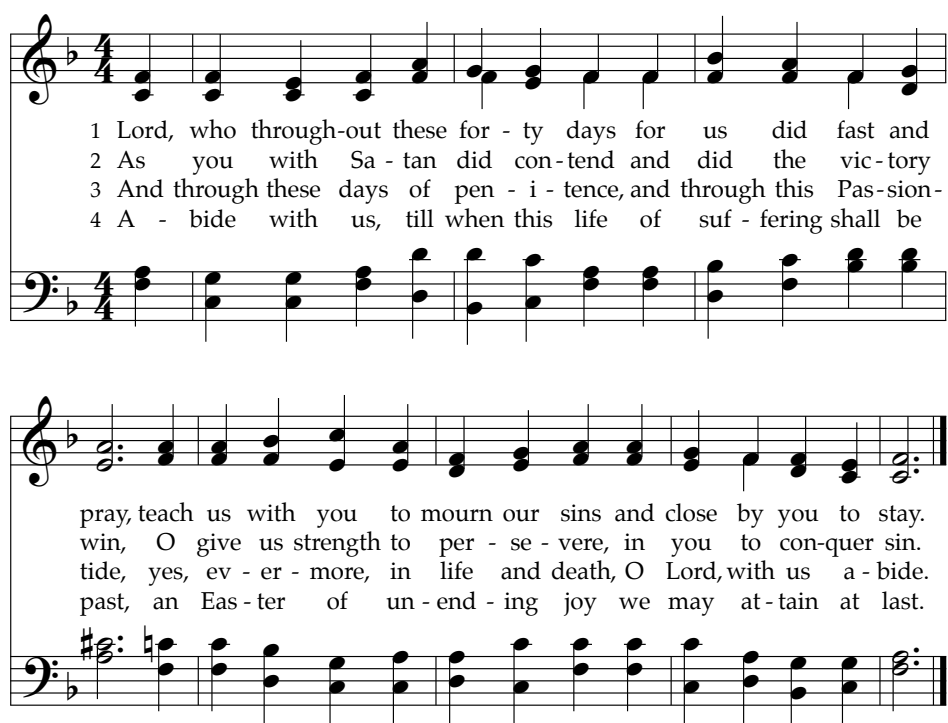
INVITATION TO LENT

PRAYER OF THE DAY

HYMN

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

ST. FLAVIAN



1 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us did fast and  
2 As you with Sa - tan did con - tend and did the vic - tory  
3 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through this Pas - sion -  
4 A - bide with us, till when this life of suf - fering shall be

pray, teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.  
win, O give us strength to per - se - vere, in you to con - quer sin.  
tide, yes, ev - er - more, in life and death, O Lord, with us a - bide.  
past, an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last.

## WORD

FIRST READING

Psalms 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.

#### ANTHEM

Thomas Morley

*Agnus Dei, qui tolis peccata mundi, miserere nostri.*

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

—Ordinary of the Mass

#### SECOND READING

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

“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.”

## MEDITATION

## Secrets With God

### ANTHEM

Will Todd

None other Lamb, none other name, none other hope in heaven or earth or sea, none other hiding place from guilt and shame, none beside thee. My faith burns low, my hope burns low; only my heart's desire cries out in me by the deep thunder of its want and woe, cries out to thee. Lord, thou art life, though I be dead; Love's fire thou art however cold I be: nor heaven have I, nor place to lay my head, nor home, but thee.

—Christina Rossetti

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and merciful God,  
we confess to you and to one another,  
and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth,  
that we have sinned by our own fault  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.

**Have mercy on us.**

When you called on us to love with abandon, we replied with selfishness.  
When you called on us to give of our whole selves, we hid ourselves away.  
When you called on us to be kind, to give grace, and be patient, we were curt, short-tempered, and responded in rage.

**Have mercy on us.**

We have forgotten our neighbor,  
We have ignored your voice,  
We have lost our way.

**Have mercy on us.**

Even now, standing before you hanging our heads, we acknowledge all of our unfaithfulness. Our love of power, our pride, our constant quest for vengeance, money and status has clouded our judgement and blurred our vision. We are stumbling over ourselves and our shortcomings.

**O God, hear our confession.**

Our feet are stained from polluting your creation.  
Our hands perpetuate the violence and oppression against our brothers and sisters.

**O God, hear our confession.**

We have been unjust.  
We are guilty.  
We are broken.  
We need your grace above all else.

**Accept our repentance.**

We ask that you restore our hearts and minds to the vessels that you created. Renew in us a right spirit, set our feet on solid ground. Your mercy is deep and wide. Your love is like an ever flowing stream. Your grace is our greatest gift.

**Amen.**

## IMPOSITION OF ASHES

### HYMN

Bless the Lord, My Soul

BLESS THE LORD (Taizé)

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

## SENDING

### BENEDICTION

#### MUSIC FOR WORSHIP

Sur une tombe, Op. 38, No. 10

Louis Vierne

---

*The Session and members of First Church extend a sincere welcome to all persons regardless of race, nationality, gender or sexual orientation. This includes an open invitation to membership, the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper, marriage, funerals, memorial services, and service as an officer of the church.*

### LEADING TODAY

Hannah Faye Allred, *Staff Associate for Congregational Care*

Audrey Webber, *Associate for Hospitality and Visual Arts*

Michael Shake, *Director of Music*

Rachel Farrar, Elizabeth Picker, Arri Lawton Simon, and Andrew Martens, *Quartet*

---

**PERMISSIONS** *Chorale paraphrase on "Hear Us, O Lord"*. Used under ONE LICENSE #73497-A. *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*. Public domain. *Agnus dei*. © 1991 Oxford University Press. Used under ONE LICENSE #73497-A. *None Other Lamb*. © 2006 Boosey & Hawkes Music Publishers Ltd. *Bless the Lord, My Soul*. Music and Words © 1984, 1988 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.). Used under ONE LICENSE #73497-A. *Sur une tombe*. Public domain. Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Used by permission. All rights reserved.