



Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 18, 2025

Celebrant/Preacher: The Rev. Jason Shelby
Deacon: The Rev. Celeste Stump

Welcome to St. Francis!

Today marks the beginning of Lent, one of the many seasons in the church calendar (we have more than four). Lent is a penitential season, that is, it is a time when we recognize our need for penance, admit to God our sinfulness, and pray for forgiveness. Lent is also a time to focus on the gift of Christ's grace, and marvel at God's infinite and unknowable love for all people. Lent is a somber time of reflection, but it is also a time of joy—the joy of knowing that we are not defined by our sins or failures, but rather, by God's love for us. When we make sacrifices for Lent, it is right and good to sacrifice those things in our lives that don't bring us joy. Give up those things that take us away from God and take on things that bring God into focus.

If you have any questions about the service, Lent, or the church, please don't hesitate to reach out to our priest, Father Jason, either by leaving a visitor card in the offering plate, or by talking to him after the service.

Please take a moment to silence your cellphone. Thank you.

Coming Events

Ash Wednesday, February 18

- **7:00 am Ash Wednesday Service (Chapel)**
- 11:00 am Good Grief Meeting
- **Noon Ash Wednesday Service (Chapel)**
- **3:30 pm Ashes-to-Go (Lower Parking Lot)**
- **5:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service (Chapel)**
- 7:00 pm Women's Lectionary Study (Library)

Thursday, February 19

- 1:00 pm Quilting and Knitting Group

Sunday, February 22

- 8:00 am Holy Eucharist (Rite I, Chapel)
- 9:10 am "Who is Jesus" Spiritual Formation Class (Library)
- 10:00 am Instructed Holy Eucharist (Rite II)
- 11:30 am Faithful Families Potluck (Parish Hall)

The Word of God

Please stand as the altar party processes in silence.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

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.*

Please be seated.

The First Lesson: Isaiah 58:1-12

Reader A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

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 practiced righteousness
 and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments,
 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?
7Is 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?
8Then 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 rear guard.
9Then 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,
10if 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.
11The 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.
12Your 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord
People **Thanks be to God.**

The Response: Psalm 103:8-14

Reader Let us read from Psalm 103 responsively (the People reading the text in bold).

⁸The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
⁹He will not always accuse,
nor will he keep his anger forever.
¹⁰He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.
¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
¹²as far as the east is from the west,
so far he removes our transgressions from us.
¹³As a father has compassion for his children,
so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.
¹⁴For he knows how we were made;
he remembers that we are dust.

The Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

Reader A Reading from Paul's Second letter to the Church in Corinth.

^{20b}We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

^{6:1}As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain.

²For 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! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God.**

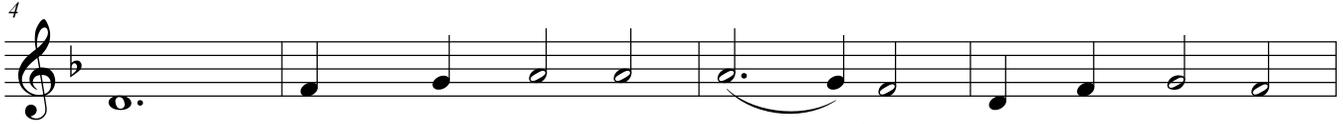
Please stand as able and join in singing.

The Sequence Hymn (6:00 pm only)
 At the Name of Jesus

Hymnal #435



At the Name of Je - sus ev - ery knee shall
 Hum - bled for a sea - son, to re - ceive a
 bore it up tri - um - phant, with its hu - man
 Name him, Chris - tians, name him, with love strong as



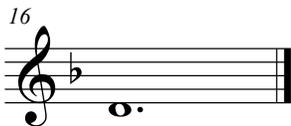
bow, ev - ery tongue con - fess — him King of glo - ry
 Name from the lips of sin - ners, un - to whom he
 light, through all ranks of crea - tures, to the cen - tral
 death, name with awe and won - der and with bat - ed



now; 'tis the Fa - ther's plea - sure we should call him
 came, faith - ful - ly he bore — it spot - less to the
 height, to the throne of God - head, to the Fa - ther's
 breath; he is God the Sa - vior, he is Christ the



Lord. who from the be - gin - ning was the might - y
 last, brought it back vic - to - rious, when from death he
 breast; filled it with the glo - ry of that per - fect
 Lord, ev - er to be wor - shiped, trust - ed and a -



Word.
 passed;
 rest.
 dored.

Words: Caroline Maria Noel (1817-1877), alt. Music: "King's Weston,"
 Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958); by permission of Oxford University Press.

Please remain standing as able.

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

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, ¹“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.

²“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. 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.

⁵“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. 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.

¹⁶“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. 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.

¹⁹“Do 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.”

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Please be seated.

The Sermon

The Rev. Jason Shelby

There will be a moment of silence for reflection following the sermon.

The Lenten Invitation

Celebrant Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord’s passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

The Blessing of the Ashes

Celebrant Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

Please come forward for the imposition of ashes.

Psalm 51

Reader ¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; *
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
²Wash me through and through from my wickedness *
and cleanse me from my sin.
³For I know my transgressions, *
and my sin is ever before me.
⁴Against you only have I sinned *
and done what is evil in your sight.
⁵And so you are justified when you speak *
and upright in your judgment.
⁶Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, *
a sinner from my mother's womb.
⁷For behold, you look for truth deep within me, *
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.
⁸Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; *
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.
⁹Make me hear of joy and gladness, *
that the body you have broken may rejoice.
¹⁰Hide your face from my sins *
and blot out all my iniquities.
¹¹Create in me a clean heart, O God, *
and renew a right spirit within me.
¹²Cast me not away from your presence *
and take not your holy Spirit from me.
¹³Give me the joy of your saving help again *
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
¹⁴I shall teach your ways to the wicked, *
and sinners shall return to you.
¹⁵Deliver me from death, O God, *
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,
O God of my salvation.
¹⁶Open my lips, O Lord, *
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
¹⁷Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice, *
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.
¹⁸The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; *
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Please kneel or sit as able.

The Litany of Penitence

- All* **Most holy and merciful Father: 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.**
- Celebrant* We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.
- All* **Have mercy on us, Lord.**
- Celebrant* We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.
- All* **Have mercy on us, Lord.**
- Celebrant* We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,
- All* **We confess to you, Lord.**
- Celebrant* Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,
- All* **We confess to you, Lord.**
- Celebrant* Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,
- All* **We confess to you, Lord.**
- Celebrant* Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,
- All* **We confess to you, Lord.**
- Celebrant* Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,
- All* **We confess to you, Lord.**
- Celebrant* Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,
- All* **Accept our repentance, Lord.**
- Celebrant* For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,
- All* **Accept our repentance, Lord.**
- Celebrant* For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,
- All* **Accept our repentance, Lord.**
- Celebrant* Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;
- All* **Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.**
- Celebrant* Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

All **That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

Celebrant By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

All **Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

Celebrant Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live, has given power and commandment to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel.

Therefore we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy, so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Please stand as able.

The 7:30 am and Noon services conclude here; the priest and people exit the church in silence.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Ministers and People exchange signs of peace in the name of the Lord.

Please be seated.

The Welcome and Announcements

Please stand as able.

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Prayer A)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

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.**

Please kneel or stand as able as the Celebrant continues.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All **Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *AMEN.*

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant And now, as Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be 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. For thine is the
kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

The Invitation

Celebrant The gifts of God for the people of God, take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Communion of the People

All are invited to receive Holy Communion. Please follow the directions of the ushers. If you do not wish to receive, we encourage you to come forward to receive a blessing. Simply fold your hands across your chest when you come forward. The clergy will carry Communion to anyone in the congregation who is unable to come forward. Please notify an usher if you wish Communion to be brought to you. Gluten-free Communion wafers are available. If you require one of these, simply ask.

Please kneel or stand as able as able.

The Post-Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

All **Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Prayer of St. Francis

Celebrant Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

People **Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.**

The Blessing

Celebrant And, the blessing of God Almighty, ✚ The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit be with you always.

All **Amen.**

The Sending Forth

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as able and join in singing.

The Closing Hymn
In Christ There Is No East or West

Hymnal #529



In Christ there is no East of West, In Him no South or
Join hands, di - ci - ples of the faith, What e'er your race may
In Christ now meet both East and West, In Him meet South and



North; But one great fel - low - ship of love Through - out the whole wide
be! Who serves my Fa - ther as a son Is sure - ly kin to
North; All Christ - ly souls are one in him Through out the whole wide



earth.
me.
earth.

Word: John Oxenham (1852-1941); Reprinted by permission of The American Tract Society, Garland, Texas.
Music: "McKee," Afro-American Spiritual; adapt. and harm. Harry T. Burleigh (1866-1949);
Copyright ©1940, Harry T. Burleigh. Used by permission of the Estate of Harry T. Burleigh

Postlude: "Have Mercy On Me, O Lord God" by Johann Gottfried Walther

Our Staff

Gina McQueen

Office Administrator & Receptionist

gina.mcqueen@stfrancispalosverdes.org / (310) 375 4617

Elaine Mistele

Business Manager

elaine.mistele@stfrancispalosverdes.org / (310) 594-8268

Dr. Mark Bennett

Director of Music

mark.bennett@stfrancispalosverdes.org / (310) 594-7416

David Knight

Organist

Kristina Pelá

Prayer and Pastoral Care Leader, Volunteer

krab3@yahoo.com

Shelley Reece

Missioner for Programming and Youth

shelley.reece@stfrancispalosverdes.org

Cara Nilsen

Discerner

cara.nilsen@stfrancispalosverdes.org

Joel Miranda

Sexton

mirandajoel@outlook.com

Wayne Hastings

Communications

wayne@stfrancispalosverdes.org / (901) 219-6564

Our Clergy

The Rev. Jason Shelby, Rector

jason.shelby@stfrancispalosverdes.org

Direct Line: (310) 594-7984

Church Office: (310) 375-4617

The Rev. Celeste Stump, Deacon

Chaplain at The Canterbury

cstump@thecanterbury.org

Direct Line: (310) 913-1069



2200 Via Rosa

Palos Verdes, CA 90274

(310) 375-4617

www.stfrancispalosverdes.org



YouTube