

Ash Wednesday



March 5, 2025

**Welcome to
St. Augustine by-the-Sea
Episcopal Church!**

We are a spiritually engaged community, seeking the knowledge and love of God, and sharing that life-giving love with the world. We believe in following the teachings of Jesus Christ and see God at work in our faith-based questions, doubts and curiosity. Scripture reveals that God loves each and every one of us, no exceptions. As such, St. Augustine's is LGBTQIA+ welcoming and affirming.

Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here!



If you are new or visiting, we invite you to introduce yourself by filling out the online Welcome form through this QR code. We look forward to meeting you and answering any questions you may have about St. A's.

Ash Wednesday with Holy Communion
March 5, 2025 – 7:00pm

(on this day the ministers enter in silence, please stand)

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.***

FIRST READING

Isaiah 58:1-12

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

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. 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 judgements, they delight to draw near to God. ‘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. 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. 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?

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? 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? 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 rear guard. 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, 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. 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. 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.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People Thanks be to God.

(silence may follow)

PSALM: Psalm 103:8-14 *(read in unison)*

- ⁸The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.
- ⁹He will not always accuse us, *
nor will he keep his anger for ever.
- ¹⁰He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
- ¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth, *
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
- ¹²As far as the east is from the west, *
so far has he removed our sins from us.
- ¹³As a father cares for his children, *
so does the LORD care for those who fear him.
- ¹⁴For he himself knows whereof we are made; *
he remembers that we are but dust.

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:20b--6:10

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

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, labors, 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 honor and dishonor, 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.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

(silence may follow)

GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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.”

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

HOMILY

LENTEN INVITATION

(after the Homily, all stand, and the Celebrant invites the people to the observance of a holy Lent, saying).

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.

(silence is then kept for a time)

BLESSING OF THE ASHES

(the Celebrant says)

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.**

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

(the ashes are imposed with the following words)

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

PSALM 51 *(led by cantor, with congregation singing alternate verses)*

Tone IV.1



- 1 *Have mērcy* on me, O God, according to your / loving-kindness; *
in your great compassion / blot out mÿ offēnses.
- 2 Wash me through and through / from my wickēdness *
and / cleanse me frōm mÿ sin.
- 3 For I know / my transgrēssions, *
and my sin is / ever bēfōre me.
- 4 Against you only / have I sinned *
and done what is / evil in yōur sight.

- 5 And so you are justified / when you spéak *
and up/right in yöur júdgment.
- 6 Indeed, I have been wicked / from my bírth, *
a sinner / from my möthér's womb.
- 7 For behold, you look for truth / deep withín me, *
and will make me understand / wisdom sècrétly.
- 8 Purge me from my sin, / and I shall be pure; *
wash me, and I / shall be cléan ín indeed.
- 9 Make me hear of / joy and gládnness, *
that the body you have / broken mäy réjoice.
- 10 Hide your face / from my síns *
and blot out / all my íniquities.
- 11 Create in me / a clean héart, O God, *
and renew a right / spirit wíthín me.
- 12 Cast me not away / from your présence *
and take not your / holy Spírit fröm me.
- 13 Give me the joy of your / saving hélp again *
and sustain me with your / bountiful Spírit.
- 14 I shall teach your ways / to the wícked, *
and sinners / shall retürn tö you.

- 15 Deliver / me from déath, O God, *
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,
O / God of mÿ salvätion.
- 16 O/open my líps, O Lord, *
and my mouth / shall procläim ýöur praise.
- 17 Had you desired it, I would have / offered sácrifice, *
but you take no de/light in bürnt-ófferings.
- 18 The sacrifice of God is a / troubled spírit; *
a broken and contrite heart, O / God, you wíll nó't dëspise.

LITANY OF PENITENCE

(the Celebrant and the people together, all kneeling)

Celebrant and People

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.

(the Celebrant continues)

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.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

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.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,
We confess to you, Lord.

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,
We confess to you, Lord.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,
We confess to you, Lord.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,
We confess to you, Lord.

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,
Accept our repentance, Lord.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,
Accept our repentance, Lord.

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,
Accept our repentance, Lord.

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;
Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,
That we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,
Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

(the Celebrant says)

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.

PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

(then the ministers and the people greet one another in the name of the Lord)

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Celebrant Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*



Offerings in thanksgiving for God's gifts to us are invited through:

- Offering plate
- **Texting the amount you want to give to (323) 615-2625**
- Using the QR Code

Offertory Anthem - *Lord, let me know mine end*, Maurice Greene (1696-1755)
sung by the combined choirs of St. Matthew's and St. A's (MR)

Music Note: As we enter Lent, this offertory anthem allows us to recognize that we do not worry alone. *Lord, Let Me Know Mine End* by Maurice Green is a "verse anthem" written during the baroque period. A verse anthem has music for large choir and small choir of soloists; in this case, two sopranos sing an interweaving duet. The text begins with a plea to God: "Let me know mine end." In other words: God, tell me when I'm going to die so that I know what I should be doing with my life. After uttering this plea, the author reflects on the vanity of this request: our lives are so short when compared to the eternity of creation.

The Great Thanksgiving

(the people stand)

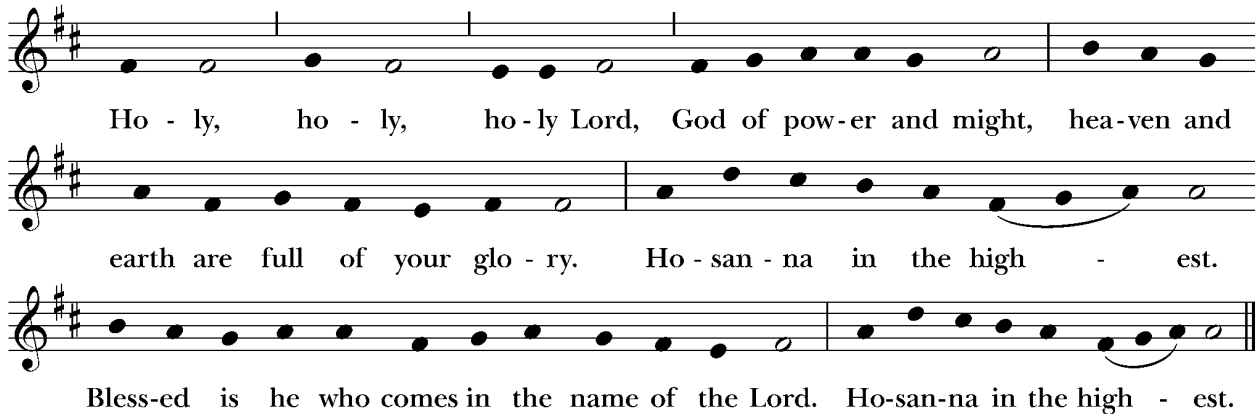
Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

(the Celebrant proceeds)

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, 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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

(the Celebrant continues)

Holy and gracious God: 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 maker of all.

Jesus 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 Savior 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 Jesus 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:

Celebrant and People

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

(the Celebrant continues)

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's 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 Christ. 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 Jesus Christ our Savior. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.
AMEN.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

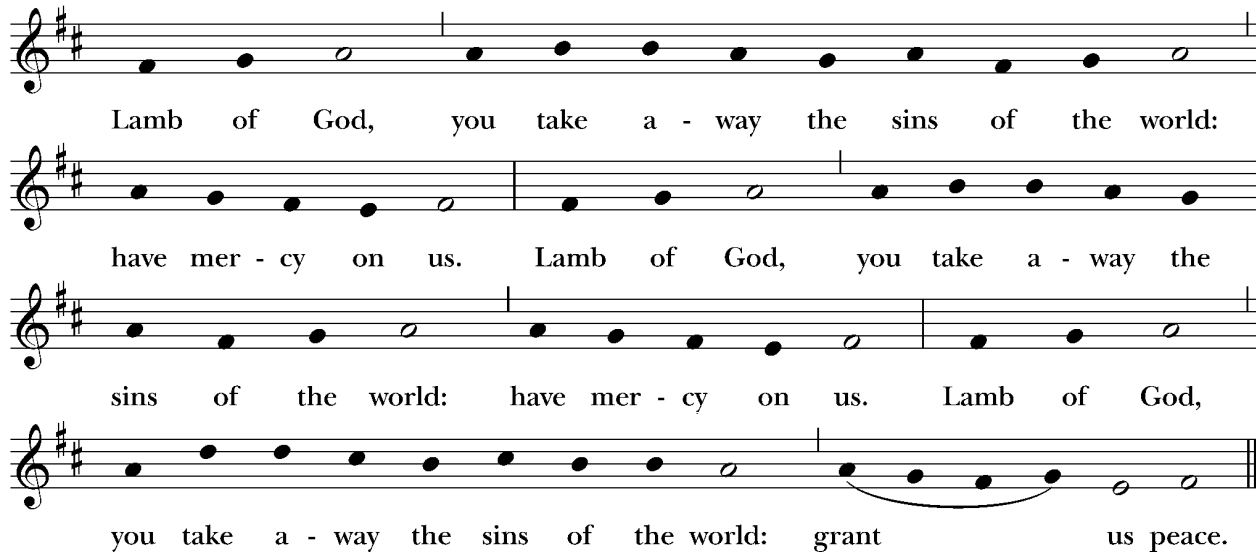
And now, as our Savior
Christ has taught us,
we are bold to say,

Celebrant and People

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

(a moment of silence is kept – the following anthem is sung)



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Invitation to Holy Communion

(the Celebrant says)

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Wherever you are in your spiritual journey you are welcome at Christ's Table.

Invitation to Spiritual Communion for Online Worshippers

(The Book of Common Prayer reminds us that the simple desire to consume the consecrated elements is enough for God to grant all the benefits of communion.)

Celebrant Will all who are online, join in praying:

In union, Blessed Jesus with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church, where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day, we believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament. Since we cannot at this time receive communion, we pray you to come into our hearts. Let nothing separate us from you; let us serve you in this life until, by your grace, we come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen

(All are welcome at Christ's table. To receive the bread, place one hand over the other. Gluten Free wafers are available upon request. To receive the wine, guide the cup to your lips for a small sip. We believe Christ is fully present in each element, so it is acceptable to receive bread only. If you would like a blessing from a priest instead of receiving communion, cross your arms over your chest.)

COMMUNION ANTHEM - *Ave Verum Corpus*, William Byrd (1540-1623)

sung by the combined choirs of St. Matthew's and St. A's (MR)

Ave verum corpus, natum de Maria Virgine,
vere passum, immolatum in cruce pro homine:
Cuius latus perforatum, Unda fluxit sanguine
Esto nobis praegustatum in mortis examine:
O Dulcis, O pie, O Jesu fili Mariae,
miserere mei. Amen.

Hail true body, born of the Virgin Mary.
Truly suffering, was sacrificed on the cross for mankind,
From whose pierced side flowed blood,
Be for us a foretaste in the final judgment.
O sweet, O merciful, O Jesus, Son of Mary,
Have mercy on me. Amen.

Music Note: William Byrd's *Ave Verum Corpus*, composed in 1605, predates the more famous Classical-era Mozart version by 186 years. My favorite part of this motet is its ending. Byrd separates the sopranos from the rest of the choir as they sing, "O sweet, O merciful, O Jesus, Son of Mary, Have mercy on me." By highlighting the soprano voice, he gives voice to our individual pleas while the rest of the choir join as "backup singers." These backup singers reassure us that we are not alone, that even though we are all singing our own parts, we are singing together. Byrd is a transitional composer, beginning firmly in the Renaissance and dying at the birth of the Baroque period. This work belongs to the genre of "motet," which is notoriously difficult to define—but a working definition might be "a piece of vocal music sung a cappella and in Latin, intended for church."

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

(please stand as we pray together)

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SOLEMN PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

(the Celebrant says)

Grant, most merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People **Thanks be to God.**

KEY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lent Devotionals *Love Bears All Things*



Each year, The Parish of St. Matthew creates a collection of Lent Devotionals for meditation on each day of the season. This year's collection, including devotionals written by and for members of St. Matthew's and St. A's, is themed *Love Bears All Things* and will be available as daily emails. To receive a devotional in your inbox through Lent, use this QR code.

Lent Madness! Vote Daily Online for your Favorite Saints www.lentmadness.org

Questions? Email Jason LaPadura - jasonlapadura@gmail.com

Sunday Services

8:00am – 9:00am	Holy Eucharist, Rite I with harp and meditation
9:15am – 10:00am	Church in the Courtyard With band and Holy Communion
9:20am – 10:10am	Adult Forum
10:30am - noon	Holy Eucharist, Rite II with organ and choir and Sunday School

Nursery open 8:00am to end of 10:30am service

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