



SAINT THOMAS CHURCH FIFTH AVENUE
in the
CITY OF NEW YORK

The Reverend Andrew C. Mead, OBE, DD, *Rector*
John Scott, LVO, D.Mus., *Organist and Director of Music*
The Reverend Charles F. Wallace, *Headmaster*

Welcome to Saint Thomas, a parish of the Episcopal Diocese of New York.
Our mission is to worship, love and serve Our Lord Jesus Christ
through the Anglican tradition and our unique choral heritage.

Please switch off all cellular telephones and pagers.

THE ASH WEDNESDAY LITURGY

FEBRUARY 17, 2010

8 o'clock

The People stand as the Procession enters.

THE SALUTATION AND THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And with thy spirit.
Celebrant Let us pray.

The Celebrant says the Collect, following which the People sit.

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Joel 2:1-2,12-17

After the Reading, the Lector says
The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

The People stand.

Saint Matthew 6:1-6,16-21

Deacon The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint Matthew.
People say Glory be to thee, O Lord.
After the proclamation of the Gospel:
Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People say Praise be to thee, O Christ.

THE INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF A HOLY LENT

The People remain standing.

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 alms-giving; 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.

℣ O Lord save thy servants;
℞ That put their trust in thee.
℣ Send unto them help from above,
℞ And evermore mightily defend them.
℣ Help us, O God our Saviour.
℞ And for the glory of thy Name deliver us; deliver us; be merciful to us sinners, for thy Name's sake.
℣ O Lord, hear our prayer.
℞ And let our cry come unto thee.
℣ Let us pray.

The Celebrant says these prayers:

O Lord, we beseech thee, mercifully hear our prayers and spare all those who confess their sins unto thee; that they, whose consciences by sin are accused, by thy merciful pardon may be absolved; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O most mighty God and merciful Father, who hast compassion upon all men, and who wouldest not the death of a sinner, but rather that he should turn from his sin, and be saved: Mercifully forgive us our trespasses; receive and comfort us, who are grieved and wearied with the burden of our sins. Thy property is always to have mercy; to thee only it appertaineth to forgive sins. Spare us therefore, good Lord, spare thy people, whom thou hast redeemed; enter not into judgment with thy servants; but so turn thine anger from us, who meekly acknowledge our transgressions, and truly repent us of our faults, and so make haste to help us in this world, that we may ever live with thee in the world to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE BLESSING OF ASHES

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, we beseech thee to spare them that are penitent, and to be favourable to them that call upon thee. Vouchsafe, we pray thee, to send thy holy Angel from heaven to bless and sanctify these ashes, that they may be a wholesome medicine to all them that humbly call upon thy holy Name, who in their consciences by sin are accused, who in the sight of thy heavenly mercy bewail their sins, and earnestly and meekly implore thy gracious loving-kindness. And we beseech thee to grant to all them that call upon thy holy Name, that being sprinkled with these ashes for the remission of their sins, they may be preserved evermore both in body and soul. Through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Ashes are imposed with these words:

Remember, O man, that dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

CONFESSION OF SIN *The People kneel and join in saying this prayer:*

TURN thou us, O good Lord, and so shall we be turned. Be favourable, O Lord, be favourable to thy people. Who turn to thee in weeping, fasting and praying. For thou art a merciful God, full of compassion, long-suffering and of great pity. Thou sparest when we deserve punishment and in thy wrath thinkest upon mercy. Spare thy people, good Lord, spare them, and let not thine heritage be brought to confusion. Hear us, O Lord, for thy mercy is great. And after the multitude of thy mercies look upon us; Through the merits and mediation of thy blessed Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Celebrant stands and says:

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness and live, hath given power, and commandment, to his Ministers, to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the Absolution and Remission of their sins. He pardoneth and absolveth all those who truly repent, and unfeignedly believe his holy Gospel.

Wherefore let us beseech him to grant us true repentance, and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do at this present; 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.*

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And with thy spirit.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And with thy spirit.
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People We lift them up unto the Lord.
Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
People It is meet and right so to do.

The Celebrant says the Preface for Lent.

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

All Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts: Heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER *The People kneel.*

The Celebrant continues and concludes: "O Father Almighty, world without end."
All AMEN.
Celebrant And now, as our Saviour Christ hath 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

The following is said:

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
grant us thy peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Celebrant Behold the Lamb of God; behold him that taketh away the sins of the world.

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

After Communion the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

The people kneel and join in saying this prayer:

ALmighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Deacon Let us bless the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Please depart in silence.

Priests impose ashes throughout the day.

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ASH WEDNESDAY

12:10 and 5:30 p.m. The Solemn Liturgy of Ash Wednesday
Music of *Farrant, Allegri, Victoria* and *Byrd*
Sermon by Father Austin

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ASSISTING CLERGY

The Reverend Victor L. Austin, Ph.D., *Theologian-in-residence*
The Reverend Jonathan M. Erdman, *Curate and Youth Minister*
The Reverend Canon John Andrew, OBE, DD, *Rector Emeritus*

STAFF

John Scott, LVO, *Organist and Director of Music*
Frederick Teardo, *Associate Organist*
Kevin Kwan, *Assistant Organist*
David M. Daniel, *Verger and Manager of Communications*
Edward J. Givins, *Assistant Verger*
Barbara W. Pettus, *Executive Director of Administration and Finance*
Ann H. Kaplan, *Director of Development*
Douglas M. Robbe, *Secretary to The Rector*

PARISH OFFICES

One West 53rd Street
New York, New York 10019
Church Telephone (212) 757-7013
www.SaintThomasChurch.org
inquiries@SaintThomasChurch.org