

Ash Wednesday

The Old Testament is written in the 58th chapter of the the Firsts Book of the Prophet Isaiah, beginning at the first verse.

This passage may be found in the pew bible on page 852.

(Pause to allow parishioners to find the page.)

“Cry aloud, spare not;
Lift up your voice like a trumpet;
Tell My people their transgression,
And the house of Jacob their sins.

“Yet they seek Me daily, And delight to know My ways, As a nation that did righteousness, And did not forsake the ordinance of their God. They ask of Me the ordinances of justice; They take delight in approaching God. ‘Why have we fasted,’ they say, ‘and You have not seen? Why have we afflicted our souls, and You take no notice?’

“In fact, in the day of your fast you find pleasure, And exploit all your laborers. Indeed you fast for strife and debate, And to strike with the fist of wickedness. You will not fast as you do this day, To make your voice heard on high. Is it a fast that I have chosen, A day for a man to afflict his soul? Is it to bow down his head like a bulrush, And to spread out sackcloth and ashes? Would you call this a fast, And an acceptable day to the Lord?

“Is this not the fast that I have chosen:
To loose the bonds of wickedness,

To undo the heavy burdens,
To let the oppressed go free,
And that you break every yoke?

“Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, And that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out; When you see the naked, that you cover him, And not hide yourself from your own flesh?

“Then your light shall break forth like the morning, Your healing shall spring forth speedily, And your righteousness 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, and He will say, ‘Here I am.’

“If you take away the yoke from your midst, The pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness, If you extend your soul to the hungry And satisfy the afflicted soul, Then your light shall dawn in the darkness, And your darkness shall be as the noonday.

“The Lord will guide you continually,
And satisfy your soul in drought, And strengthen your bones; You shall be like

a watered garden, And like a spring of
water, whose waters do not fail. Those
from among you Shall build the old
waste places; You shall raise up the

foundations of many generations; And
you shall be called the Repairer of the
Breach, The Restorer of Streets to
Dwell In.”

(Pause for a count of 5)

This is the word of the Lord.

Ash Wednesday

Psalm 32

1 BLESSED is he whose unrighteousness is forgiven, * and whose sin is covered.

2 Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth no sin, * and in whose spirit there is no guile.

3 For whilst I held my tongue, * my bones consumed away through my daily complaining.

4 For thy hand was heavy upon me day and night, * and my moisture was like the drought in summer.

5 I acknowledged my sin unto thee; * and mine unrighteousness have I not hid.

6 I said, I will confess my sins unto the Lord; * and so thou forgavest the wickedness of my sin.

7 For this shall every one that is godly make his prayer unto thee, in a time when thou mayest be found; * surely the great water-floods shall not come nigh him.

8 Thou art a place to hide me in; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; * thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance.

9 I will inform thee, and teach thee in the way wherein thou shalt go; * and I will guide thee with mine eye.

10 Be ye not like to horse and mule, which have no understanding; * whose mouths must be held with bit and bridle, else they will not obey thee.

11 Great plagues remain for the ungodly; * but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord, mercy embraceth him on every side.

12 Be glad, O ye righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; * and be joyful, all ye that are true of heart.

Glory be...

Ash Wednesday

For the Epistle, the reading of the second chapter of the Prophet Joel, beginning at the 12th verse.

This passage may be found in the Book of Common Prayer on page 124.

(Pause to allow parishioners to find the page.)

TURN ye even to me, saith the LORD ,
with all your heart, and with fasting,
and with weeping, and with mourning:
and rend your heart, and not your
garments, and turn unto the Lord your
God: for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and of great kindness,
and repenteth him of the evil.

Who knoweth if he will return and
repent, and leave a blessing behind him;
even a meat-offering and a drink-
offering unto the Lord your God? Blow
the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call

a solemn assembly: gather the people,
sanctify the congregation, assemble the
elders, gather the children, and those
that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom
go forth of his chamber, and the bride
out of her closet.

Let the priests, the ministers of the
LORD, weep between the porch and the
altar, and let them say, Spare thy people,
O Lord, and give not thine heritage to
reproach, that the heathen should rule
over them: wherefore should they say
among the people, Where is their God?

(Pause for a count of 5)

This is the word of the Lord.