



*Batter my heart, three-person'd God; for, you  
As yet but knock, breathe, shine, and seek to  
mend;*

*That I may rise, and stand, o'erthrow me, and  
bend*

*Your force, to break, blow, burn and make me  
new.*

*I, like an usurp'd town, to another due,*

*Labour to admit you, but Oh, to no end;*

*Reason, your viceroy in me, me should defend,*

*But is captiv'd, and proves weak or untrue.*

Yet dearly I love you, and would be loved fain,  
But am bethroth'd unto your enemy:  
Divorce me, untie, or break that knot again,  
Take me to you, imprison me, for I,  
Except you enthrall me, never shall be free,  
Nor ever chaste, except you ravish me.

John Donne

*Prelude*

*Entrance Hymn* 601

*Prayer of the Day*

*P: The Lord be with you*

**C: And also with you**

*P: Let us pray*

**C: Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made and you forgive the sins of all who confess. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may obtain from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*First Lesson*

*Joel 2*

**The Warning of Judgment**

Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
sound the alarm on my holy mountain!  
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,  
for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near—  
a day of darkness and gloom,  
a day of clouds and thick darkness!  
Like blackness spread upon the mountains  
a great and powerful army comes;  
their like has never been from of old,  
nor will be again after them  
in ages to come.

**Primary Attributes of God**

Return to the Lord, your God,  
for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,  
and relents from punishing.  
Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,  
and leave a blessing behind him,  
a grain offering and a drink offering  
for the Lord, your God?

**What to do to favor God's relenting**

Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
 sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people.  
 Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged;  
 gather the children, even infants at the breast.  
 Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy.  
 Between the vestibule and the altar  
 let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep.  
 Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord,  
 and do not make your heritage a mockery,  
 a byword among the nations.  
 Why should it be said among the peoples,  
 'Where is their God?'"  
 Then the Lord became jealous for his land,  
 and had pity on his people.

*Reader: The Word of the Lord.*

**C: Thanks be to God!**

*Psalm*

*103:8-14*



The LORD is full of com - pas - sion and mer - cy.

*The Lord is merciful and gracious,  
 slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.*

**He will not always accuse,  
 nor will he keep his anger forever. R**

*He does not deal with us according to our sins,  
 nor repay us according to our iniquities.*

**For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
 so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;**

*as far as the east is from the west,  
 so far he removes our transgressions from us.*

**As a father has compassion for his children,**

**so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.**

*For he knows how we were made;  
he remembers that we are dust.*      **R**

***Second Lesson***

***2 Corinthians 5***

So, we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us. Therefore, we implore you on Christ's behalf to be reconciled to God. For our sake God made Jesus, who did not sin, to become sin so that in Jesus we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him we also urge you not to accept the grace of God in vain. For God says,

*"At an acceptable time I have listened to you,  
and on a day of salvation I have helped you."*

Understand that "the acceptable time" is right now and the day of salvation is right now! 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 truthful;  
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: The Word of the Lord.*

**C: Thanks be to God!**

***Hymn***

***599***

*P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the sixth chapter.*

**C: Glory to you, O Lord!**

Jesus taught saying:

"Pay attention to not doing your righteousness before people for their perusal; for then you have no wages from your Father in the heavens.

So, whenever you may give alms, you may not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets so that they may be glorified by people. Most certainly, I say to you, they receive their wages. But as you are giving alms, do not let your left know what your right is doing, so that your alms may be done cryptically; and your Father who is seeing cryptically will reimburse you.

And whenever you may pray, you will not be like the hypocrites; for they love to be standing and praying in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be dazzling people. Most certainly, I say to you, they receive their wages. But whenever you may pray, go into your inner room and having shut the door, pray to your Father cryptically; and your Father who is seeing cryptically will reimburse you.

But when you are praying, you may not use the meaningless words repetitively as the Gentiles do; for they think that in their wordiness they will be heard. You may not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Pray then in this way:

Our Father in the heavens,  
Sanctify Your name!  
Bring Your kingdom!  
Do your will: as in heaven, so on earth!  
Give us our daily bread today!  
And forgive! us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.  
And do not bring us to the temptation,  
but rescue us from the evil.

For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

But whenever you may fast, do not be like the hypocrites with dismally disfigured faces so as to dazzle people with their fasting. Most certainly, I tell you, they receive their wages. But when you are fasting, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not dazzle people

with your fasting, but by your Father who is cryptic; and your Father who sees cryptically will reimburse you.

P: *The Gospel of our Lord!*

C: **Praise to you, O Christ!**

*Pastoral Address*

# Hymn of the Day

*unison*

1. A - gain we keep this sol - emn fast A  
2. The law and proph - ets from of old In  
3. More spar - ing, there - fore, let us make The  
4. Let us a - void each harm - ful way That  
5. We pray, O bless - ed Three in One, Our

gift of faith from a - ges past, This Lent which binds us,  
fig - ured ways this Lent fore - told, Which Christ, all a - ges'  
words we speak, the food we take, Our sleep, our laugh - ter,  
lures the care - less mind a - stray; By watch - ful prayer our  
God while end - less a - ges run, That this, our Lent of

lov - ing - ly To faith and hope and char - i - ty.  
Lord and Guide, In these last days has sanc - ti - fied.  
ev - 'ry sense; Learn peace through ho - ly pen - i - tence.  
spir - its free From schem - ing of the En - e - my.  
for - ty days, May bring us growth and give you praise.

## *Confession*

*P: You shall have no other Gods.*

**C: We are to fear, love and trust God above anything else.**

*P: Do not take the Lord's name in vain.*

**C: We are to fear and love God so that we do not use His name superstitiously, or use it to curse, swear, lie, or deceive, but call on him in prayer, praise and thanksgiving.**

*P: Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy.*

**C: We are to fear and love God so that we do not neglect His Word and the preaching of it, but regard it as holy and gladly hear and learn it.**

*P: Honor your Mother and Father.*

**C: We are to fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and others in right authority, but respect, obey, love, and serve them.**

*P: You shall not kill.*

**C: We are to fear and love God so that we do not harm our neighbor in any way, but help them in all their physical needs.**

*P: You shall not commit adultery.*

**C: We are to fear and love God so that in matters of sex and sexuality our words and conduct are pure and honorable.**

*P: You shall not steal.*

**C: We are to fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's property or money, or acquire them dishonestly or unjustly, but help them protect what they have.**

*P: You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.*

**C: We are to fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, or betray, slander, or defame them, rather we should speak well of them, and interpret their actions in the kindest way.**

*P: You shall not covet.*

**C: We are to fear and love God, and so we should not seek by craftiness to gain any of our neighbor's resources, nor are we to obtain them under pretext of legal right, but we should be of service to them and help to them so that they may keep what is theirs.**

## *Imposition of Ashes*

*P: The cross of ashes is a sign of our failure to live as God commands; a sign of the death that comes from sin. The cross of ash is also the sign of our salvation, the mark and promise of our baptism. Therefore, let us contemplate both the righteous justice of God and the gracious love of God, for through our Lord Jesus Christ, we have confidence that God is pleased with repentant hearts that confront the truth of sin and turn from it. Let us include ourselves among the penitent, trusting God's mercy and living in obedience to God's command to love.*

**Those who wish to receive the sign of our submission to God's authority and our gathering in His love may come forward and kneel at the Communion Rail. During the imposition you may find value in reading and reflecting on Psalm 42 (found in the Psalms that begin on page 339 in the red hymnal.)**

*P: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,  
C: that we may show forth your glory in the world.*

*P: By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,  
C: bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.*

*P: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.  
Amen.*

*Hymn*  
*359*

*tune: ELW*

"Forgive our sins as we forgive,"  
you taught us, Lord to pray;  
but you alone can grant us grace  
to live the words we say.

How can your pardon reach and bless  
the unforgiving heart  
that broods on wrongs and will not let,  
old bitterness depart?

In blazing light your cross reveals  
the truth we dimly knew:  
What trivial debts are owed to us,  
how great our debt to you.

Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls  
and bid resentment cease.  
Then, bound to all in bonds of love,  
our lives will spread your peace.

*Passing of the Peace*

*P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.*

**C: And also with you.**

*Choir Anthem*

*Great Thanksgiving*

*page 161*

*Lord's Prayer*

*page 163*

*Lamb of God*

*page 164*

*Post-communion Blessing & Prayer*

*Benediction*

*Recessional Hymn*

1 Make me a cap-tive, Lord, and then I shall be free.  
 2 My heart is weak and poor till it a mas-ter find.  
 3 My pow'r is faint and low till I have learned to serve.  
 4 My will is not my own till thou hast made it thine.

Force me to ren-der up my sword, and I shall con-qu'ror be.  
 It has no spring of ac-tion sure - it var-ies with the wind.  
 It wants the need-ed fire to glow, it wants the breeze to nerve.  
 If it would reach a mon-arch's throne it must its crown re - sign.

I sink in life's a-larms when by my-self I stand. Im-  
 It can-not free-ly move till thou hast wrought its chain. En-  
 It can-not drive the world un-till it-self be driv'n. Its  
 It on-ly stands un-bent, a-mid the clash-ing strife, when

pris-on me with-in thine arms, and strong shall be my hand.  
 slave it with thy match-less love, and death-less it shall reign.  
 flag can on-ly be un-furled when thou shalt breathe from heav'n.  
 on thy bo-som it has leant, and found in thee its life.

LENT'S  
**5** HABITS OF  
HIGHLY  
EFFECTIVE  
CHRISTIANS

*March 1*  
Gather with God's People

*March 8*  
Encounter God's Word

*March 15*  
Devotion to Prayer

*March 22*  
Take the Gospel Perspective

*March 29*  
Commitment to Compassion

*5 Spiritual*

*Self-Control*

*March 4*

*Ma*

*Joy*

*March 18*

*Ma*

*Love*

*April 1*

*Wednesday*

*Dismissal*