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

[1]{Jesus said,} "Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. [2]Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. [3]But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, [4]so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. [5]And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. [6]But when 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 when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. [17]But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, [18]that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. [19]Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, [20]but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. [21]For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

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* The Book of Common Prayer verse numbers for this psalm are different from the numbering in the ESV.

The Word of God



Ash Wednesday ***February 10, 2027***

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission 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 Reading: Joel 2:12-19

[12]"Yet even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; [13]and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. [14]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? [15]Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; [16]gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber. [17]Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep and say, "Spare your people, O LORD, and make not your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'" [18]Then the LORD became jealous for his land and had pity on his people. [19]The LORD answered and said to his people, "Behold, I am sending to you grain, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied; and I will no more make you a reproach among the nations."

Psalm 51:1-13 [14-20]*

[1]Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | lovingkindness;*
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.
[2]Wash me through and through | from my wickedness*
and cleanse me | from my sin.
[3]For I know | my transgressions,*
and my sin is ev- | er before me.
[4]Against you only | have I sinned*
and done what is evil | in your sight.
[5]And so you are justified | when you speak*
and upright | in your judgment.
[6]Indeed, I have been wicked | from my birth,*
a sinner from my | mother's womb.
[7]For behold, you look for truth | deep within me,*
and will make me understand | wisdom secretly.
[8]Purge me from my sin, and I | shall be pure;*
wash me, and I shall be | clean indeed.
[9]Make me hear of | joy and gladness,*
that the body you have broken | may rejoice.
[10]Hide your face | from my sins*
and blot out all | my iniquities.
[11]Create in me a clean | heart, O God,*
and renew a right spir- | it within me.
[12]Cast me not away | from your presence*
and take not your Holy | Spirit from me.
[13]Give me the joy of your saving | help again*
and sustain me with your bount- | iful Spirit.
[[14]I shall teach your ways | to the wicked,*
and sinners shall re- | turn to you.
[15]Deliver me from | death, O God,*
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,
O God of | my salvation.
[16]Open my | lips, O LORD,*
and my mouth shall pro- | claim your praise.
[17]Had you desired it, I would have | offered sacrifice,*
but you take no delight | in burnt offerings.
[18]The sacrifice of God is a | troubled spirit;*
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will | not despise.
[19]Be favorable and gra- | cious to Zion,*
and rebuild the walls | of Jerusalem.
[20]Then you will be pleased with the appointed sacrifices,
with burnt offerings | and oblations;*
then shall they offer young bullocks up- | on your altar.]

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

[20b]We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. [21]For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. [6]Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain.

[1]For he says, "In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. [3]We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, [4]but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, [5]beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; [6]by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; [7]by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; [8]through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; [9]as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; [10]as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.