



# **Worship at Home**

***Wednesday, February 17, 2021 – Ash Wednesday***

Officiant: Rev. Molly Finlay  
Preacher: Rev. Benjamin Gillard  
Pianist & Cantor: Cara Halpin

via Zoom or Dial-In

# Opening Hymn

*Forty Days and Forty Nights (CP 175)*

Forty days and forty nights, you were fasting in the wild,  
forty days and forty nights, tempted, and yet, undefiled:

Burning heat throughout the day, bitter cold when light had fled,  
prowling beasts around your way, stones your pillow, earth your bed.

So if Satan, pressing hard, soul and body would destroy.

Christ who conquered, be our guard; give to us the victor's joy.

Saviour, may we hear your voice, keep us constant at your side;

and with you we all rejoice, at the eternal Eastertide.

# The Collect

*Officiant* Together, let us pray.

*All* **Almighty and everlasting God, you despise 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 brokenness, 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 (Read by Marty Halpin)

## ***2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10***

*Reader* A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

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:

# First Reading (Read by Marty Halpin)

## ***2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10***

through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, 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 honour and dishonour, 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*

The word of the Lord.

*All*

**Thanks be to God.**

# Gospel Reading

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

*Reader* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

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

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Reader* 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.

# Gospel Reading

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

*Reader* 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."

*Reader* The Gospel of Christ.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**



**Homily:** Rev. Benjamin Gillard

**Solo:** *Stay With Me* (Taizé), Thera Barclay, soprano; Cara Halpin, piano.



# Introduction to the Imposition of Ashes

*Officiant* We come to worship God as the Lenten season begins,  
aware of our frailty and our failings.

*All* **We come seeking God's mercy,  
acknowledging our mortality.**

*Officiant* Having received the waters of baptism,  
*All* **we come to be marked now with ashes.**

*Officiant* May we humble ourselves before God  
not with a yoke of burden  
*All* **but a mantle of freedom in Jesus' name.**

# Prayer of Confession (Psalm 51)

*Please join on the alternating bolded verses*

*Officiant* Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

*All* **Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin.**

*Officiant* You desire truth in the inward being;  
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

*All* **Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

*Officiant* Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice

*All* **Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.**

# Prayer of Confession (Psalm 51)

*Please join on the alternating bolded verses*

*Officiant*

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.

*All*

**Do not cast me away from your presence,  
and do not take away your holy spirit from me.**

*Officiant*

Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and sustain in me a willing spirit.

*All*

**Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
and sinners will return to you.**

*Officiant*

Deliver me from the way of sin, O God of my salvation,  
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

*All*

**O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth will declare your praise**

# Prayer & Imposition of Ashes

*Officiant*

Let us pray. Almighty God, from the dust of the earth you have created us. May these ashes be for us a sign of our human weakness and need for your forgiveness, and a reminder that only by your gracious gift are we given eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

*All*

**Amen.**

*Officiant*

Beloved, I invite you now to mark one another in your home – or yourself if you are alone – with the ashes, making the sign of the cross on the forehead. If you don't have ashes, you can simply trace the sign of the cross on the forehead without them.

As you make the sign of the cross, please say:

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

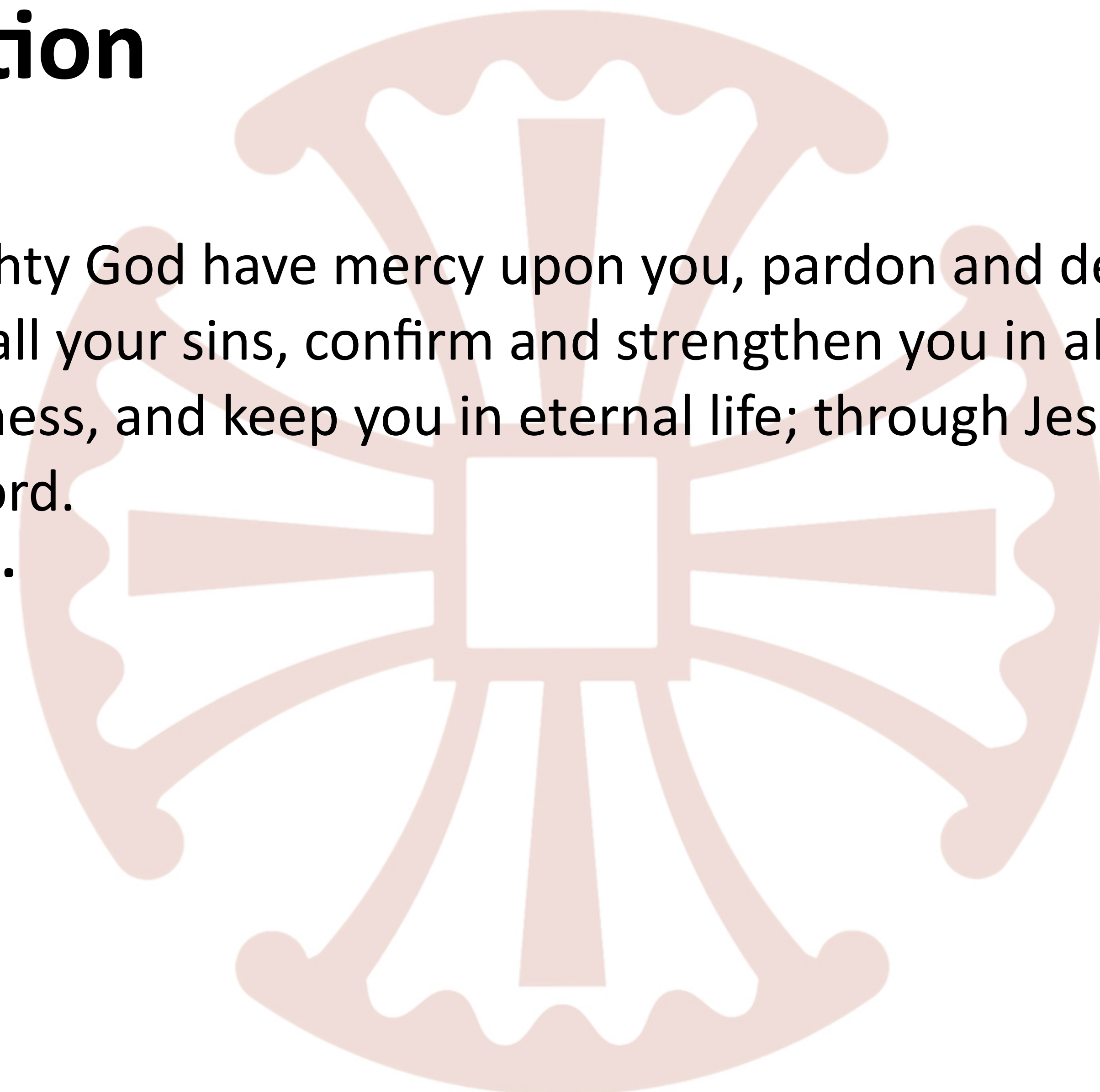
# The Absolution

*Officiant*

Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All*

**Amen.**



# The Lord's Prayer

*Officiant*

And now, as our Saviour Christ has 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.**

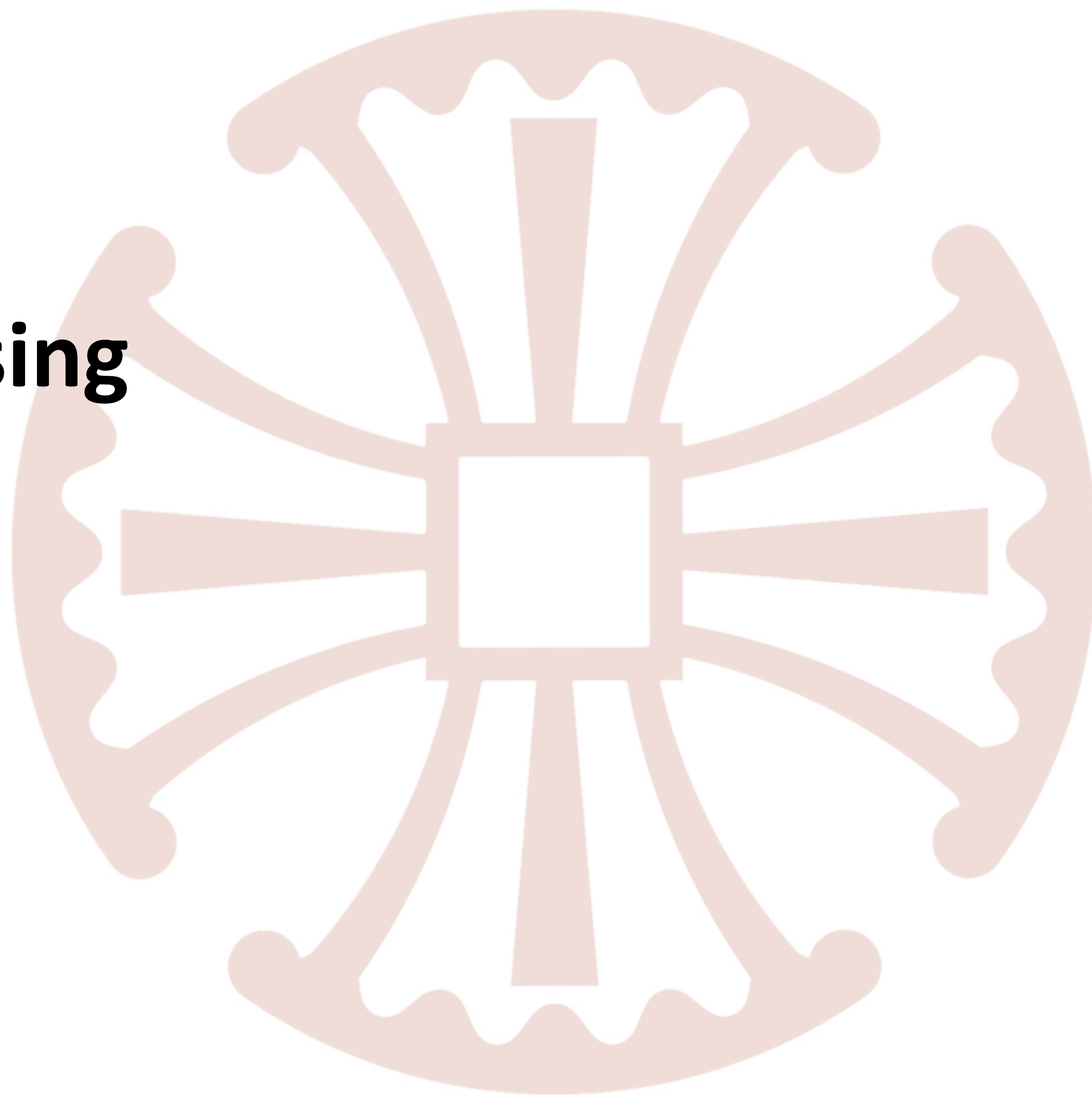
**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**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, the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

# The Blessing



# Closing Hymn

*Dear God, Compassionate and Kind (CP 455)*

Dear God, compassionate and kind, forgive our foolish ways.

Reclothe us in our rightful mind, in purer lives thy service find,  
in deeper reverence, praise, in deeper reverence, praise.

Drop thy still dews of quietness till all our strivings cease;  
take from our souls the strain and stress, and let our ordered lives confess  
the beauty of thy peace, the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire thy coolness and thy balm;  
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire; speak through the earthquake, wind and fire,  
O still small voice of calm, O still small voice of calm.



# The Dismissal

*Officiant*

So now go in peace, remember the poor, be kindly affectioned one to one another!

*All*

**Thanks be to God.**

