



FEBRUARY 17, 2021

ST. ALPHONSUS CATHOLIC CHURCH, MT. PLEASANT, IOWA

REV. PAUL CONNOLLY, CELEBRANT

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**You are merciful to all, O Lord
and despise nothing that you have made.
You overlook people's sins,
to bring them to repentance,
and you spare them, for you are the Lord our God.**

GREETING, PENITENTIAL RITE

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Joel 2:12-18

Even now, says the LORD, return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, and weeping and mourning; rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to the LORD, your God. For gracious and merciful is he, slow to anger, rich in kindness, and relenting in punishment. Perhaps he will again relent and leave behind him a blessing, Offerings and libations for the LORD, your God.

Blow the trumpet in Zion! proclaim a fast, call an assembly; gather the people, notify the congregation; assemble the elders, gather the children and the infants at the breast; let the bridegroom quit his room and the bride her chamber. Between the porch and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep, And say, "Spare, O LORD, your people, and make not your heritage a reproach, with the nations ruling over them! Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

Then the LORD was stirred to concern for his land and took pity on his people.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 51:3-6, 12-14, 17

R. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness;
in the greatness of your compassion wipe out my offense.

Thoroughly wash me from my guilt
and of my sin cleanse me.

R. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

For I acknowledge my offense,
and my sin is before me always:
Against you only have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight.

R. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

A clean heart create for me, O God,
and a steadfast spirit renew within me.
Cast me not out from your presence,
and your Holy Spirit take not from me.

R. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Give me back the joy of your salvation,
and a willing spirit sustain in me.

O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

R. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2

Brothers and sisters: We are ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who did not know sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him. Working together, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For he says: *In an acceptable time I heard you, and on the day of salvation I helped you.* Behold, now is a very acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts .

Alleluia, alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

Jesus said to his disciples: "Take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them; otherwise, you will have no recompense from your heavenly Father. When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win the praise of others. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right is doing, so that your almsgiving may be secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

"When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, who love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on street corners so that others may see them. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you. "When you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites. They neglect their appearance, so that they may appear to others to be fasting. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you may not appear to be fasting, except to your Father who is hidden. And your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

HOMILY



BLESSING AND DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES

After the Homily, the Priest, standing with hands joined, says:

Dear brethren (brothers and sisters), let us humbly ask God our Father that he be pleased to bless with the abundance of his grace these ashes, which we will put on our heads in penitence.

After a brief prayer in silence, and, with hands extended, he continues:

O God, who are moved by acts of humility and respond with forgiveness to works of penance, lend your merciful ear to our prayers and in your kindness pour out the grace of your blessing on your servants who are marked with these ashes, that, as they follow the Lenten observances, they may be worthy to come with minds made pure to celebrate the Paschal Mystery of your Son. Through Christ our Lord **R. Amen.**

He sprinkles the ashes with holy water, without saying anything.

Then the Priest places ashes on the head of all those present who come to him, and says to each one: Repent, and believe in the Gospel.

THE PEOPLE RECEIVE ASHES



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR AND GIFTS

Priest: Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through
Your goodness we have received the bread we offer you:
fruit of the earth and work of human hands,
it will become for us the bread of life.

People: **Blessed be God for ever.**

Priest: Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through
your goodness we have received the wine we offer you:
fruit of the vine and work of human hands,
it will become our spiritual drink.

People: **Blessed be God for ever.**

Priest: Pray, brothers and sisters,
that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God,
the almighty Father,

People: **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

PREFACE The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right and just.**
It is truly right and just.....
.....
.....And so, with Angels and Archangels,
with Thrones and Dominions, and with all hosts
and Powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of your glory,
as without end we acclaim:

HOLY **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of Hosts.**
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

MYSTERY OF FAITH

After the words of Institution of the Eucharist, the Priest sings or says:

The mystery of faith:

All: **Save us, Savior of the world,
for by your cross and resurrection
you have set us free.**

The Eucharistic Prayer culminates and concludes when the Priest sings or says:

Through him, and with him, and in him,
O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: **Our Father, who art in heaven.....
.....but deliver us from evil.**

Priest: Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously
grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your
mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from
all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the
coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

All: **For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours
now and forever.**

RITE OF PEACE

Priest: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: And with your spirit.

The people exchange a sign of peace.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Priest: Behold the Lamb of God,

Behold him who takes away the sins of the world.

Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

All: **Lord, I am not worthy
that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION—*ST. ALPHONSUS LIGOURI*

(For those who are unable to physically receive Communion with us today.)

My Jesus,

I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

**I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive you into my soul.**

**Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.**

**I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.**

Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

All: **He who ponders the law of the Lord day and night
will yield fruit in due season.**

COMMUNION PROCESSION

*If you are not of the Catholic faith, or do not wish to receive Communion today,
you may join procession, cross your arms over your chest, and receive a blessing.*



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

BLESSING and DISMISSAL

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