

**ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, LUNENBURG  
ASH WEDNESDAY - 2010**

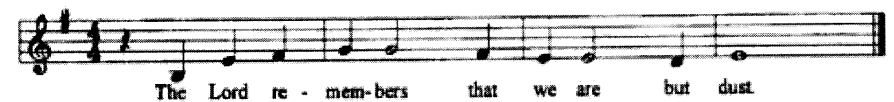
**SERVICE IS FOUND IN THE BAS ON PAGE 281**

*The Service begins in silence.*

**A READING FROM THE BOOK OF JOEL**

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. Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. 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? 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?'*" JOEL 2:1-2, 12-17

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



**PSALM 103 The Lord remembers that we are but dust.**

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and of great kindness. He will not always accuse us, nor will he keep his anger for ever. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our wickedness. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so is his mercy great upon those who fear him. **R**

As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our sins from us. As a father cares for his children, so does the Lord care for those who fear him. **R**

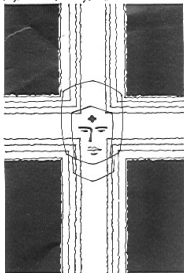
For he himself knows whereof we are made; he remembers that we are but dust. Our days are like the grass; we flourish like a flower of the field; When the wind goes over it, it is gone, and its place shall know it no more. **R**

But the merciful goodness of the Lord endures for ever on those who fear him, and his righteousness on children's children; On those who keep his covenant and remember his commandments and do them. **R**

### **A READING FROM THE SECOND 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: 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. *2 COR 5: 20B-6:10*  
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

ASH WEDNESDAY



### **THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MATTHEW Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Jesus said, "Beware of practising 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. 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."

MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-21

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

### **LITANY OF PENITENCE - P 283**

**Offertory Hymn #292 "We Cannot Measure How You Heal"  
Eucharistic Prayer #2 P 196**

### **PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS**

Merciful God, turn us from sin to faithfulness. Accept our offering, and prepare us to celebrate the death and resurrection of Christ our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you now and for ever. **Amen**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

God of compassion, through your Son Jesus Christ you reconciled your people to yourself. Following his example of prayer and fasting, may we obey you with willing hearts and serve one another in holy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Communion Hymn #180 "Giver of the Perfect Gift"**

*Celebrant* All your works praise you, O Lord.  
**All And your faithful servants bless you.**  
**Gracious God, we thank you for feeding us**  
**with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.**  
**May we, who share his body, live his risen life;**  
**we, who drink his cup, ring life to others;**  
**we, whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world.**  
**Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,**  
**so that we and all your children shall be free,**  
**and the whole earth live to praise your name;**  
**through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Hymn #572** “Let There Be Light”

### **Prayer for the People of Haiti**

**We pray for the suffering people of Haiti, who are slowly recovering from devastating earthquakes. We pray for all who are forced to live amid destruction, disease and despair. We raise our voices on their behalf, and pray God’s healing hope upon them.**

**We pray for all those who are bringing food and relief, especially fellow Canadians. We pray loving Father, that nations of the world will stay with the people of Haiti to help rebuild their lives and their country. Into their hour of darkness may the light of your new dawn begin to shine. Amen**

### ***Leave in Silence***

*Throughout the Season of Lent,*  
*let us remember in quiet joy and thanksgiving the sacrifice of*  
*Christ on our behalf.*  
*Let us take up our cross and find ways to make a difference to*  
*the lives of those around us.*  
*By giving something up, or by taking on a new way of prayer*  
*and service, may our lives be for the love of God and for our*  
*fellow human beings.*