



**The Liturgy**  
*Of*  
**Ash Wednesday**

Wednesday 17 February 2021

# The Gathering

## The Greeting

In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit

All **Amen.**

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you.

All **and also with you.**

## Introduction

Brothers and sisters in Christ, since early days Christians have observed with great devotion the time of our Lord's passion and resurrection and prepared for this by a season of penitence and fasting.

By carefully keeping these days, Christians take to heart the call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel, and so grow in faith and in devotion to our Lord.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy word.

All **Holy God,  
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy upon us.**

## Hymn

'Forty Days and Forty Nights'

*The words of the hymn will appear in the YouTube video.*

## The Collect

Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

Almighty and everlasting God,  
you hate nothing that you have made  
and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:  
create and make in us new and contrite hearts  
that we, worthily lamenting our sins  
and acknowledging our wretchedness,  
may receive from you, the God of all mercy,  
perfect remission and forgiveness;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

## *The Liturgy of the Word*

### The Gospel Reading

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.  
The Lord is a great God, O that today you would listen to his voice.  
Harden not your hearts.

*cf. Psalm 95.3,8*

*All* **Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *Matthew*.

*All* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the crowds, '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*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*All* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

### *The Liturgy of Penitence*

#### **Self-Examination and Confession**

Let us now call to mind our sin and the infinite mercy of God.

*All* God the Father,  
**have mercy on us.**

*All* God the Son,  
**have mercy on us.**

*All* God the Holy Spirit,  
**have mercy on us.**

*All* Trinity of love,  
**have mercy on us.**

*All* **Most merciful God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned  
in thought, word and deed.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart, mind, and strength.  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us.  
We have not been true to the mind of Christ.  
We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

We confess to you, Lord ...

all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy  
and impatience of our lives.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways,  
and our exploitation of other people.

Our anger at our own frustration  
and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts  
and our dishonesty in daily life and work.

Our negligence in prayer and worship  
and our failure to commend the faith that is in us.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

Accept our repentance, Lord ...

for the wrongs we have done,  
for our blindness to human need and suffering,  
and our indifference to injustice and cruelty.

For all false judgements,  
for uncharitable thoughts towards our neighbours  
and for our prejudice and contempt  
towards those who differ from us.

For our waste and pollution of your creation  
and our lack of concern for those who come after us.

*All* **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.  
*All* **Favourably hear us, for your mercy is great.**

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,  
*All* **that we may show your glory in the world.**

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,  
*All* **bring us with all your saints  
to the joy of his resurrection.**

*Silence is kept.*

*All* **We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
In your mercy forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall be;  
that we may do justly, love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you, our God.  
Amen.**

## **The Imposition of Ashes**

Dear friends in Christ,  
I invite you to receive these ashes  
as a sign of the spirit of penitence  
with which we shall keep this season of Lent.

God our Father,  
you create us from the dust of the earth:  
grant that these ashes may be for us  
a sign of our penitence  
and a symbol of our mortality;  
for it is by your grace alone  
that we receive eternal life  
in Jesus Christ our Saviour.  
*All* **Amen.**

*The president says.*

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.  
Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.

God our Father,  
the strength of all who put their trust in you,  
mercifully accept our prayers;  
and because, in our weakness,  
we can do nothing good without you,  
grant us the help of your grace,  
that in keeping your commandments  
we may please you, both in will and deed;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

**Anthem**  
'Drop, drop , slow tears'

## *The Liturgy of the Sacrament*

### **Preparation of the Table and The Taking of Bread and Wine**

Merciful Father,  
turn us from sin to faithfulness  
and from disobedience to love,  
and prepare us to celebrate  
the death and resurrection of Christ our Saviour  
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

### **The Eucharistic Prayer**

*All* The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

*All* Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

*All* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good  
to give you thanks and praise,  
almighty God and everlasting Father,  
through Jesus Christ your Son.  
For in these forty days  
you lead us into the desert of repentance  
that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline  
we may grow in grace  
and learn to be your people once again.  
Through fasting, prayer and acts of service  
you bring us back to your generous heart.  
Through study of your holy word  
you open our eyes to your presence in the world  
and free our hands to welcome others  
into the radiant splendour of your love.  
As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast  
with joyful hearts and minds  
we bless you for your mercy  
and join with saints and angels  
for ever praising you and singing:

*All* **Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
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.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he praised you.  
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.



When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.  
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:  
Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice  
made once for all upon the cross.  
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection  
until he comes in glory.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:  
*All* **Dying you destroyed our death,  
rising you restored our life:  
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Lord of all life,  
help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with all the saints  
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,  
for ever and ever.

*All* **Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

Lord Jesus, remember us in your kingdom  
and teach us to pray.

*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.**

## Breaking of Bread

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup  
*All* **we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

*The Agnus Dei is said as the bread is broken.*

*All* **Jesus, lamb of God, have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace.**

Jesus is the Lamb of God  
who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

*All* **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

## Spiritual Communion

*We pray together a prayer of Spiritual Communion.*

**All Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,  
for all the benefits you have given me,  
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.  
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,  
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.  
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,  
may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly,  
and follow you more nearly, day by day.  
Amen.**

## Prayer after Communion

Almighty God,  
you have given your only Son to be for us  
both a sacrifice for sin  
and also an example of godly life.  
give us grace  
that we may always most thankfully receive  
these his inestimable gifts,  
and also daily endeavour  
to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

**All God of our pilgrimage,  
you feed us with the bread of heaven.  
Refresh and sustain us  
as we go forward on our journey,  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## Hymn

'Hear me Lord, in my distress'

*The words of the hymn will appear in the YouTube video.*

## *The Dismissal*

## **The Blessing**

*The president prays for God's blessing.*

May God the Father,  
who does not despise the broken spirit,  
give to you a contrite heart.

*All* **Amen.**

May Christ,  
who bore our sins in his body on the tree,  
heal you by his wounds.

*All* **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit,  
who leads us into all truth,  
speak to you words of pardon and peace.

*All* **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

*All* **Amen.**

## **The Dismissal**

Go in the peace of Christ

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

### Acknowledgements

Excerpts from the *Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England* (2000) and *Common Worship: Times and Seasons* (2006).  
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