



Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes

Ash Wednesday
22 February 2023
Setting: Darke in F

*Please join in all parts of the service
printed in **bold** type.*

*Please stand where indicated only if you
wish.*

We gather to worship

*The choir enters, then when the bell rings
we sing:*

**Forty days and forty nights
thou wast fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights
tempted, and yet undefiled.**

**Sunbeams scorching all the day;
chilly dew-drops nightly shed;
prowling beasts about thy way;
stones thy pillow, earth thy bed.**

**Let us thine endurance share,
and awhile from joys abstain,
with thee watching unto prayer,
strong with thee to suffer pain.**

**And if Satan, vexing sore,
flesh or spirit should assail,
thou, his vanquisher before,
grant we may not faint nor fail.**

**So shall we have peace divine;
holier gladness ours shall be;
round us too shall angels shine,
such as ministered to thee.**

**Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,
ever constant by thy side;
that with thee we may appear
at the eternal Eastertide.**

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

The priest greets the people,

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

*The priest explains the meaning of Lent
and invites the people to observe it
faithfully.*

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.

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.
Amen.

We hear God's Word

We sit for the

First reading Joel 2.1-2,12-17

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?"'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We remain seated as the choir sings psalm 51. 1-18.

Gospel Reading Matthew 6.1-6,16-21

We stand and sing after the choir,

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

**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.

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

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples, '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.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

*We sit for the Sermon, then we keep
silence together.*

The Liturgy of Penitence

We kneel or sit

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

God the Father,
have mercy on us.
God the Son,
have mercy on us.
God the Holy Spirit,
have mercy on us.
Trinity of love,
have mercy on us.

**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, and mind, and strength.
We have not loved our neighbours
as ourselves.

We have not forgiven others,
as we have been forgiven.

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.

Lord, have mercy.

We confess to you, Lord ...
all our past unfaithfulness: the pride,
hypocrisy and impatience of our lives.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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

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.

Accept our repentance, Lord.

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

Accept our repentance, Lord.

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

Accept our repentance, Lord.

Restore us, good Lord,
and let your anger depart from us.

**Favourably hear us,
for your mercy is great.**

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

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

Silence is kept.

**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 choir sings Kyrie

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.

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.
Amen.

*The priest and people receive the
imposition of ashes.*

The priest pronounces the absolution.

The Lord enrich you with his grace,
and nourish you with his blessing;
the Lord defend you in trouble
and keep you from all evil;
the Lord accept your prayers,
and absolve you from your offences,
for the sake of Jesus Christ,
our Saviour. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

*The priest introduces the exchange of the
Peace, where we greet one another as a
sign of fellowship.*

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

The deacon says,
Let us offer one another
a sign of peace.

All exchange a sign of peace.

The Offering

We sing,

**Above the voices
of the world around me,
my hopes and dreams,
my cares and loves and fears,
the long-awaited call
of Christ has found me,
the voice of Jesus echoes in my ears:
I gave my life to break
the cords that bind you,
I rose from death
to set your spirit free;
turn from your sins
and put the past behind you,
take up your cross
and come and follow me.'**

**What can I offer him
who calls me to him?
Only the wastes of sin
and self and shame;
a mind confused,
a heart that never knew him,
a tongue unskilled
at naming Jesus' Name.**

**Yet at your call,
and hungry for your blessing,
drawn by that cross
which moves a heart of stone,
now Lord I come,
my tale of sin confessing,
and in repentance turn to you alone.**

**Lord, I believe;
help now my unbelieving;
I come in faith
because your promise stands.
Your word of pardon
and of peace receiving,
all that I am I place
within your hands.
Let me become
what you shall choose to make me,
freed from the guilt
and burden of my sins.
Jesus is mine,
who never shall forsake me,
and in his love
my new-born life begins.**

The priest takes the bread and wine and says the prayer of preparation.

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.
Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

Please remain standing during the Eucharistic Prayer if it is comfortable for you.

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

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

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

The priest praises God for his mighty acts, and the choir sings the Sanctus and Benedictus

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee O Lord most high. Amen. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The priest continues, recalling the Last Supper, then the Deacon says,

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

The priest continues, ending
... for ever and ever. **Amen.**

We sit or kneel
As our Saviour taught, so we pray
**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.
Amen.**

*The priest breaks the consecrated bread
and says,*

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

*The choir sings Agnus Dei
O Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the
world, have mercy upon us. O Lamb of God
that takest away the sins of the world, have
mercy upon us.. O Lamb of God that takest
away the sins of the world grant us thy peace.*

The Giving of Communion

*The people receive communion. Those
who do not wish to receive are warmly
invited to come forward for an individual
blessing. Gluten free wafers are available.
Please come to the front and form a
queue. Please be mindful of the safety of
others and remain distanced. Communion
will be administered in both kinds, on the
hand and from the chalice (optional).
Please do not intinct (dip) the wafer in the
chalice.*

*Communion will be brought to those
seated in the south aisle.*

Invitation to communion.

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.
**Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

*The choir sings Drop, drop, slow tears—
Gibbons, arr. Bullock*

Silence is kept.

The priest says this prayer,

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.
Amen.

We say together,

**God of our pilgrimage,
you have fed 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.**

The Dismissal

We stand to sing,
**Led by the Spirit, we confront
temptation face to face,
and know full well we must
rely on God's redeeming grace.
On bread alone we cannot live,
but nourished by the Word.
We seek the will of God to do:
this is our drink and food.**

Led by the Spirit, now draw near
the waters of rebirth
With hearts that long to worship God
in spirit and in truth.
**'Whoever drinks the drink
I give shall never thirst again.'**
Thus says the Lord who died for us,
our Saviour, kin and friend.

Led by the Spirit, now sing praise
to God the Trinity:
the Source of Life, the living Word
made flesh to set us free,
The Spirit blowing where it will
to make us friends of God:
this mystery far beyond our reach,
yet near in healing love.

Responsory

This is love, not that we loved God,
**but that he loved us and
sent his Son.**
He is the sacrifice for our sins,
that we might live through him.
If God loves us so much
we ought to love one another.
If we love one another
God lives in us.

The Dismissal Gospel

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus
Christ according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.
Which one of you, having a hundred
sheep and losing one of them, does not
leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness
and go after the one that is lost until he
finds it? When he has found it, he lays it
on his shoulders and rejoices.
And when he comes home, he calls

together his friends and neighbours,
saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I
have found my sheep that was lost.'
Just so, I tell you, there will be more
joy in heaven over one sinner who
repents than over ninety-nine
righteous people who need no
repentance.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The Blessing

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Christ give you grace
to grow in holiness,
to deny yourselves, take up
your cross, and follow him;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son,
and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain
with you always.
Amen.

The deacon says,
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ.
Amen.