



# A Service for Ash Wednesday



*A broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise*

## WELCOME

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.

**All and also with you.**

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.

## COLLECT

Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

*Silence*

Holy God, our lives are laid open before you: rescue us from the chaos of sin and through the death of your Son bring us healing and make us whole in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

## 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.

**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.**

*At the end the reader says*

This is the Gospel of Christ.

**All Praise to Christ our Lord.**

## SERMON

## LITURGY OF PENITENCE

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

God the Father,

**All have mercy on us.**

God the Son,

**All have mercy on us.**

God the Holy Spirit,

**All have mercy on us.**

Trinity of love,

**All 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, and 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.**

*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.**

## IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Dear friends in Christ, I invite you to look at the ash cross and 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 this symbol 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.**

You might like to say with me the words of the Imposition of Ash as you sign yourself on your forehead or palms with the sign of the cross

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

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.

**All Amen.**

## **PEACE**

Since we are justified by faith,  
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ  
who has given us access to his grace.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

## **Hymn**

Oh, to see the dawn  
of the darkest day:  
Christ on the road to Calvary.  
Tried by sinful men,  
torn and beaten, then  
nailed to a cross of wood.

This, the power of the cross:  
Christ became sin for us,  
took the blame, bore the wrath:  
we stand forgiven at the cross.

Oh, to see the pain  
written on your face  
bearing the awesome weight of sin;  
every bitter thought, very evil deed  
crowning your bloodstained brow.

This, the power of the cross:  
Christ became sin for us,  
took the blame, bore the wrath:  
we stand forgiven at the cross.

Now the daylight flees,  
now the ground beneath  
quakes as its Maker bows his head.  
curtain torn in two,  
dead are raised to life;  
'finished!' the vict'ry cry.

This, the power of the cross:  
Christ became sin for us,  
took the blame, bore the wrath:  
we stand forgiven at the cross.

Oh, to see my name  
written in the wounds,  
for through your suffering I am free.  
Death is crushed to death,  
life is mine to live,  
won through your selfless love.

This, the power of the cross:  
Son of God, slain for us.  
What a love! What a cost!  
We stand forgiven at the cross.

Risen Lord and Saviour, present among us with the wealth of your  
love. Cleanse us from sin and give us the faith to offer our praise  
and grow in your grace.

**All Amen.**

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

The Lord is here

**All His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**All We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All It is right to give thanks and praise.**

*The president praises God for his mighty acts and all respond*

**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.**

*The president recalls the Last Supper*

Great is the mystery of faith:

**All Christ has died:  
Christ is risen:  
Christ will come again.**

*The prayer continues and leads into the doxology, to which all respond*

**All Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**All 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.**

## **BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

*The president breaks the consecrated bread, saying*

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,

**All we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

## **AGNUS DEI**

**All Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

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

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

## **GIVING OF COMMUNION**

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.**

## **You may like to say this prayer, after the Prayer of St Richard of Chichester**

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 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.**

### **Hymn**

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us  
O'er the world's tempestuous sea;  
Guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,  
For we have no help but Thee;  
Yet possessing every blessing  
If our God our Father be.

Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us;  
All our weakness thou dost know;  
thou didst tread this earth before us,  
thou didst feel its keenest woe;  
Self denying, death defying,  
Thou to Calvary didst go.

Spirit of our God, descending,  
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,  
love with every passion blending,  
pleasure that can never cloy;  
thus provided, pardoned, guided,  
nothing can our peace destroy.

## **DISMISSAL**

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 and with those whom you  
love and pray for, this day and always.

**All Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All In the name of Christ. Amen.**

## **NOTICES**

**LET'S DO LENT**—every Sunday in Lent there will be a short Youtube Bible story, reflection and prayer for children. You can download the appropriate page each week from our website or, as from Friday 19th February, a booklet will be available outside St John's Church, Baildon.

**COMPLINE**—join us for Compline every night during Lent at 9.30pm live streamed on Facebook.

**#LIVE LENT**—we hope that you find the booklet helpful, do consider joining the zoom group on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm to help these reflections.

**PRAYER REQUESTS**—if you have prayer requests for either Morning Prayer or Compline, don't forget to let Rev Ruth Yeoman or myself have them either via email or phone.

**WATER AID**—our charity during Lent is Water Aid, more details about how you might give next Sunday.